off

In The Eye Entertainment, TV and arts ... our new all-week guide

In The Long Weekend In The Magazine

Bridget Jones. The book. Yessss! **Exclusive excerpts**



Wear it well ... fashion for the independent man



Nuclear base to become prison camp

The Home Office is planning to convert a former American nuclear base into a prison to cope with jail overcrowding.

The former US Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, would be run by prison gover-nors but guarded by Ministry of Defence police.
The idea is the most extreme

so far in a series of proposals by the Government to cope with the spiralling prison population, which stands at a record of 57,354. Juils are at hursting point and The Independent revealed vesterday that the Home Office had drawn up plans to out prisoners into magistrates courts' cells under the control of private security guards.

The proposal to put immates in a former US nuclear base enraged jail staff. John Boddington, chairman of the Prison Officers Association, said: This is the most ill-conceived idea I have ever heard. Prisoners belong in jail not in old American air force camps."

eral secretary of the Mational Association of Probation Officers, said: "This is preposterous and should be avoided at all costs." David Roddan, general sec-Association, said12 per cent of

retary of the Prison Governors' governors posts had been axed at the end of September. "It is difficult to see how it's going to be possible for governors to be sent on duty away from their establishments," he said. This is a most unwelcome

burden at a time when existing prisons are at breaking point. In 1980, when prison officers went on strike, and in 1986 during a staff overtime ban, two for-

mer British Army camps, at Rollestone, Wiltshire and Alma Dettingen, Surrey, were converted for prisoners. Soldiers were used to patrol the perimeter fences. Other attempts to use military

bases for prisoners have run into legal problems. The plan to put young offenders into the Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre in Essex is now subject to an "indefinite detay" because of restrictions on soldiers overseeing civilian inmates.

Last night a Prison Service spokesman said the Woodbridge proposal was "speculative". He added: "Clearly we are faced with a rising prison population and in those circumstances we are looking at a

range of things."
Woodhridge became an American airbase in 1952. In the 1960s it became a tactical nuclear hase and home to the USAF's 78 Tactical Fighter

Squadron. It was fater home to Phantom nuclear-capable bombers and 100 A10 groundattack "tankbuster" aircraft. which were armed with

depleted uranium shells. In 1993, the Americans evacuated the base as part of cut-backs ordered by President George Bush at the end of the

The base was at the centre of one of Britain's biggest UFO in-chients in 1980 when a metallic, triangular craft was seen over

the nearby Rendlesham Forest. Now the villagers are facing a new influx of neighbours which is unlikely to meet with

their approval. There was uproar in the village when the Maharishi Foundation attempted to buy Woodbridge's sister USAF base at Beatwaters, also in Woodbridge, last year, to set up a University of Natural Law. The project fell through because of the foundation's concerns about possible pollution on the site.



under frequent attack as a woman-hater, and unexpected new biography which dancer, and irene Lagut, subject reveals that he was litted at least twice. of Picasso's The Lovers, rejected him.

of his acclaimed A Life of Picasso discloses how, during the First World War, Gaby Lespinasse, a cabaret

was often tender and compassionate in his relationships with women and was "as much sinned against as

Jitted suitor, page 3

First-time author becomes a million dollar man

Marianne Macdonald Arts Correspondent

A merchant banker, who used to be a diplomat, has secured book and film rights worth more than \$1m (£630,000) for

his first novel They were clinched by John McLaren, who two weeks ago announced Masterprize, a £75,000 award to encourage composers to write new works.

for symphony orchestras. What he did not reveal then was that he was in the process of clinching book and film contracts for his first novel, which he wrote in a matter of weeks while working for Morgan

Grenfell, the merchant bank Press Send, as in the mobile phone button, tells how a computer genius takes revenge on his enemies from beyond the grave. Mr McLaren, 45, drew on his experience at a venture capital firm in San Francisco for the book, but it was his original training as a diplomat which As I trusted the people, I felt I helped him place it without an could rely on a fair deal."

"I wrote the book last year and then I had to think how to sell it," he said yesterday. "I had no natural entrees at all and I didn't believe I could trust my book to the Royal Mail to he read.

"I sent it to a number of agents, all of whom showed complete lack of interest. Then sent it to publishers, whom friends of friends had suggested, all of whom showed rather

strong interest." When it was clear they would bid against each other for Press Send, the banker decided to do the deal on his own. He had meetings with all of them and eventually signed with Simon &

Schuster. Unusually, his criteria was not who would offer most money, hut which firm he most trusted. "Smart people don't rip people

Mr McLaren then turned his considerable energies to get-

ting a film contract. "I thought that with a book you could possibly approach publishers, but with a movie I didn't think for a second that would make sense. "I decided I needed ace

agents, so I thought about any recent examples of a book by an unknown author which had been a stunning success." The obvious one was The Horse Whisperer, by television producer Nick Evans, which

even finished. "I found out who had done that deal - Nick Marston at A P Watt, and Bob Bookman m LA - and a friend introduced me to Nick Marston. He read my synopsis, then my book, and was keen to work on it. The two agents had an auc-

ford for £1.9m before it was

ney, Columbia Tri-Star, Uni-Cruise and Michael Douglas, Press Send was optioned by Universal for around \$1m.

It is to he directed by Mike Nichols, whose past credits inchide The Graduate, Working Girl and the forthcoming film, Primary Colors. The book will be published next spring. What next then from a man

of such formidable talents? Well," says Mr McLaren, "I have a two-book deal with Si-mon & Schuster. "We're also putting a lot of was bought by Robert Redenergy into promoting Mas-

terprize. But I am also going to

cut back my hours at Morgan

UK set for **Europe's** slow lane

IMRE KARACS

Germany and France yesterday unveiled a new joint blueprint for Europe, aimed at speeding up integration among a hard core of European Union members by sidelining Britain.

The document, thrashed out by Foreign Ministers Hervé de Charette and Klaus Kinkel, is set to raise a storm when it is submitted to the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) next Monday. And it will infuriate the members of James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, gathering in Brighton today.

According to the German foreign ministry, the central message of the "discussion paper" is that "in future, Europe will no longer have to progress at the speed of the slowest ship". Britain will be correct in recognising berself in that nautical reference, a Bonn official admitted. of unhappiness in France and Germany that Britain has consistently blocked moves to greater European unity.

Paris and Bonn are proposing a change in the Maastricht treaty which would allow members states in the vanguard of European integration to form cliques. The plan is rather similiar to the way that European Monetary Union will proceed only with those willing and ahle to participate. The "ins" would thus be able to co-ordinate their policies more closely, whilst the 'outs" would eventually be marginalised in key areas.

The new slogan will be "enhanced co-operation", to be inserted into the amended treaty next year. The main principles are as follows:

The aim is a deepening of Eu-

ropean union using the existing institutional framework. No member state will be al-

Football strike England's footballers have voted to go on strike. Page 32

Lebed stays cool Alexander Lehed, ousted by President Yeltsin, joked that he was planning a trip to the in-trique-laden play "Ivan the Ter-rible". Page 12

Cheaper medicine The price of non-presciption drugs are set fall after a decision they are unfair. Page 2

The Broadsheet Comment 17-19 Obituaries 20 Saturday story 18 Sport 26-32 Unit trusts21 Long Weekend Country Walk19 Crossword31

Business & City ...23-24 Foreign news11-16 Heavenly & Earthly2 Kerber's Week2 Theatre Review 6

TV & Radin Reviews 7

lowed to veto the formation of such a group.

No EU member state which wants and is able to participate

can be excluded. ■ The groups will strive for the highest possible number of

The final decision about forming such a clique will be with the sented, which will also lay down the ground rules for co-operation. The exact details of the procedure are still to be worked out, the document says in a footnote.

The blueprint's release shows that both France and Germany mentum. A two-speed Europe would ensure that - whatever happens in Britain's general election next year - progress on reform can be maintained.

The EU has already accumulated a series of mini-groups moving towards union at difgroup co-ordinates border controls and immigration, while the Western European Union deals with defence, for instance. But the new initiative would formalise this and ensure that countries such as Britain could no longer hold back the more enthusiastic nations.

The co-ordination of activities within these groups would be carried out by the European Commission, while the European Parliament would be given an operation to a minimum.

"appropriate role". The commission would have the right to prevent such groups forming, and ensure that the "ins" did not discriminate against the "outs". The European Court of Justice would supervise the legality of such arrangements.

The most controversial area in this brave new world is foreign and security policy. The document calls for "enhanced co-operation" in defence, intended to "deepen European unity". However, disagreements many is a fervent supporter of hitions for the Western European Union. The hlueprint gives a nod to joint weapons projects

but future forms of co-operation are to be "spelt out later". The financing of group activities is left vague. In defence and foreign policy, the groups their money from the community budget. Decisions within the groups would be on the basis of a qualified majority vote.

France and Germany also see themselves huddling together with like-minded states over interior affairs and justice. Again, the two countries have widely differing ambinions, and detail is thin. Germany would like its policemen to roam the continent, France wants to keep co-



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Forty years on Neal Ascherson reflects on Hungary's 1956 uprising



Concubine hotline Why New York's Orthodox Jews are outraged - or tempted

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Prices to fall in free-for-all at the pharmacy

RETAILER'S GOX NO

Cheaper branded medicines are on the way after the Office of Fair Trading yesterday took the first move to abolish price controls on over-the-counter

drugs.
But pharmacists warned that the OFT's move could be ald the death-knell for the small local pharmacy, with as many as one in four facing closure.

John Bridgeman, director-general for the OFT, said yesterday he was taking legal action to end Resale Price Maintenance [RPM] - the practice of manufacturers stipulating the price to be charged to customers - on nearly 2,300 products which include antiseptics, painkillers, indigestion remedies, vitamins, minerals and laxatives. He said its abolition would save the con-

sumer £180m a year. Pharmacists have argued that removing RPM will put small chemists, who provide a valu-able service to the community over and above dispensing medicine, at the mercy of large supermarket chains which will be able to discount more heavily

than they can. Action Group [CPAG] claimed the move could lead to up to a quarter of pharmacies closing. and described Mr Bridgeman's decision as a "massive threat to Britain's health care".

RPM was made unlawful in Britain in the 1960s except for the two areas of books and overthe-counter medicines. The re- of CPAG condemned the move view of the policy began a year and said: "RPM is a tried and

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ago after supermarket chain Asda, which was a key player in ending the book price-fixing agreement, defied RPM by slashing prices on products such as Agadio

in general were more secure than they had been in 1970 when the last attempt to overturn RPM on non-prescription medicines had been made. "A higher proportioo of chemists' turnover is now from prescriptions: the figure is more than 70 cent in 1970," he said. The products on which price competition would be possible accounted for only 3-4 per cent of their husiness. "Many chemists will welcome this move, they will become more competent and

efficient," he said. But David Sharpe, chairman

tested way of guaranteeing a widespread network of com-

munity pharmacies which gives everyone in the UK access to professional advice and a wide range of medicines. Is it worth Mr Bridgeman said chemists sacrificing such an essential service for a saving of 6 pence per person per week at the very most? We know the UK public

don't think so."-Lahour consumer affairs spokesman Nigel Griffiths said he was "very concerned" by the announcement. "The OFT is playing into the hands of the

But Laura Simons, senior public affairs officer for the Consumers' Association, said: We are delighted at this important first step towards the abolition of RPM which has forced consumers to pay a high price without any improvement in access to pharmacy despite industry claims."



High drama: The rehearsal for Daphnis and Chloe, starring to open the Covent Garden Irek Mukhamedov and Royal Ballet season last

nery crashed.

night, was abandoned when Photograph:Laurie Lewis

significant shorts

Thousands to march for more for contempt school money

Thousands of teachers, school governors and supporters are expected to march through London today attacker is to appeal. to press Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to increase spending on education.

The march comes as government spending decisions are being finalised ahead of the Budget. It has being organised by the National Union of Teachers: which says education authorities are struggling this year against a £752m shortfall - the difference between what they asked for from the Government and what they received.

Murder police arrest officer

Detectives in Dublin investigating the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin were last night questioning a garda arrested over suspected links with leading criminals. A sawn-off shotgun was reported to have been found in his house. The Garda said he was

ing held under the - iz . Offences Against the State Act at a Dublin station "in connection with serious crimes". The arrest is thought of criminals with links to the main suspect. Since Ms Guerin's shooting in June more than 50 people have been arrested. Alan Murdoch

Tunnel plan for Park Lane

A visionary plan to extend Hyde Park in London hy routing Park Lane underground is to be announced next month by a consortium seeking lottery

funding for the project.

The idea would be to give back the six acres taken from the park in the Sixties when mucb of Park Lane was turned into an eight-lane dual carriageway. The scheme, costing up to £90m, is being promoted by two engineering firms. Christian Wolmar

Woman jailed will appeal

A woman jailed because site was too scared to give evidence against her alleged

The father of Sarah Holt, 20, said yesterday he was "horrified" when he heard a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court in Essex had sent her to Holloway Prison, north London, for three months. though she is now in an open prison. Mr Holt, a husinessman, said she has only just recovered from the scars of the assault allegedly by her former boyfriend. Alex Fryatt.

Women's-rights campaigners say Miss Holt and her friend Sophie Bird. jailed for two months, should he freed.

Lush's Acland found hanged Chris Acland, above,



drummer with the rock group Lush, has been found dead in an outhouse at his home at Kendal, Cumbria. He had

apparently hanged himself. Fellow members of the indie band, which had just finished a tour of the US. were said to be devastated. Police do not consider the death suspicious.

Acland, 30, was thought to have been considering his future with the band, which has had three hit singles in tbe alternative charts.

A spokesman for Lush's record company, 4AD, said he had left London to visit his parents in Cumhria after the tour. He bad been depressed but it was not known why. Jojo Moyes

Postal staff head for strike despite threat to jobs Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Despite dire warnings about job losses, most postal workers are voting for fresh industrial netion at the Royal Mail, according to both senior managers and union sources. The fresh round of disruption could

cause havee during the Christmas period and come at a sensitive time for

the Labour Party, with just six months

to go before the general election.

Management is intensifying its campaign for a 'no' vote, but concedes there is discontent among the 130,000strong workforce, which is intensely koyal to its union. The moderate leadership of the Communication Workers' Union is urging a vote for action, hut is likely to call for fresh talks, whatever the outcome of the ballot.

cies comes in a memorandum prepared by the Post Office which argues that strikes could force up to 30,000 employees on to the dole over the next five years, nearly a quarter of the workforce. Ministers have warned that more stoppages would lead to a further suspension of the Post Office's let-

The latest prediction of redundan-

The warning about job losses is a

"worst case scenario" contained in a paper drawn up to assess the impact the service of more stoppages.

The anthors of the document say the three-month suspension threatened by the Government would allow serious competitive services to become established. After the dispute, private carriers would almost certainly attempt to persuade ministers to allow them to continue operations, the paper says.

out until the end of the month, but even

moderate union officials conceded

yesterday that the vote was likely to he

in favour of fresh action. Senior managers think that the result will be close - unlike the 68 per cent majority in favour of action in the first ballot - but say that they would not be suprised by another 'yes'

Miss GRRRIMALDI Just roll it round your tonsue but never miss GRRRAHAM'S

Paramilitaries want peace to continue, says Trimble

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble yesterday emerged from a meeting with imprisoned Protestant para-militaries saying he believed they wanted the loyalist cease-fire to last.

His meeting with inmates at the Maze prison outside Belfast was something of a departure for a mainstream Unionist leader, since most have preferred to keep their distance from the violent loyalists. The encounter was described

as constructive and fruitful by a loyalist spokesman. The mood of loyalist prisoners appears to bave mellowed considerably in a very short time, since less than three weeks ago some of them announced they were withdrawing their support for the peace process.

Among those Mr Trimble met were noted loyalist terrorists Johnny Adair, who once had charge of the Ulster Defence Association's most violent sec-tion, and Michael Stone, who shot three Catholics dead at a republican funeral in 1988. Mr Trimble said: "I have left

the meeting feeling very strong-





David Trimble visited loyalists in the Maze while John negotiated an end to the Londonderry stand-off

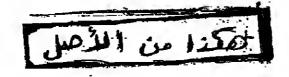
ly that the prisoners here wish to see the ceasefires sustained and wish to see positive developments on the political front. very much hope that the ceasefire will be sustained, but there is of course the ever-present worry that further acts of provocation by republicans could destabilise the siluation.

"I feel that they do now desire to see the peace process continuing. They can see ... that from the point of view of contimuing republican violence, the republicans have put themselves in a corner.

Meanwhile the RUC said

no decision had yet been taken concerning a proposed Apprentice Boys of Derry march around the walls of Londonderry city today. Residents of the Catholic Bogside district have said they will hold a protest meeting but the local MP, SDLP leader John Hume,

appealed to them to call it off. The Apprentice Boys want 200 local members, including one band, to march along the route they were prevented from taking in August. Mr Hume said the march would take 20 to 25 minutes, with just five minutes to pass over the Bogside.



our

ical

The golden set pay homage at the court of Sir James

المكذا من الأميل

into a windy Brighton yesterday where his Referendum Party toduy holds its inaugural conference and tries to shrug off the claim that it is a fringe organi-

ted

John Major levelled the charge and claimed that people had "completely misjudged the potential impact of the Referendum Party". They would not

get many votes, he said. Sir James said it would be up Hotel, Sir James said: "What to the people to decide the status of his party.

But there was confusion in the run-up to the one-day conference. Two leading members admitted that the Referendum Party could let in Labour at the Then a news conference

erupted as officials faced charges that they had barred journalists from the Daily Mir-ror and Daily Telegraph who had written stories critical of the fledgling party.
The Prime Minister, on a tour

of Essex and Suffolk, set the ball rolling. Claiming that the impact of Sir James's party had been completely misjudged, he said: I don't believe they will get dany votes.

"They are very much a fringe organisation and those votes will be spread across the all the po-litical parties. I frankly don't damage any one particular

Sir James said whether his party was a fringe organisation or not would be a matter for the people to decide.

Asked to respond to Mr Major's suggestion that the Referendum Party posed no threat. he said: "Well, I am sure he is a man of great vision."

Arriving at Brighton's Grand we are trying to have is a con-ference which addresses the issues so that, when the conference is finished, the issues as they really are, are available to be known to the British

He would address what should he in the referendum question his party was seeking

"All I can say is what the ques-tion has to address, and then the exact words have to emerge from the House of Commons in a proper constitutional manner, but it has to address the fun-Last weekend, Sir James said.

it must offer voters four options for the future shape of Europe: a federal superstate, a Europe of nation states cooperating together, going back to a free-trade-only Europe or pulling out



Man of Gold: Sir James Goldsmith surrounded by photographers in Brighton yesterday for the Inaugural conference of his Referendum Party

Picasso the seducer was more sinned against than sinning

Pablo Picasso, one of the great artistic talents of the 20th century, has been portrayed as an ncorrigible misogynist, whose had then discarded women But an authoritative new biography argues that in fact in his relationships with women, he was "as much sinned against as sinning", and that, on at least two occasions, previously unknown mistresses rejected his

proposals of marriage. Life of Picasso, John Richardson also argues that Picasso, born in the 19th century into a traditional Andalusian family. has been unfairly judged against the mores of the late 20th century while other chauvinists such as Rembrandt and Matisse

have been spared. The book will fuel controversy about the artist's life, which is currently the subject of a Merchant Ivory film, Surviving Picasso, starring Anthony Hopkins and based on Arianna Stassinopoulos's hostile biography Picasso: Creator and

"It is certainly true," sichardson said yesterday, that Picasso treated women hadly, but he also showed great compassion and tenderness.

During the First World War, he said, the Spanish artist fell in love with two women who abandoned well-advanced plans for marriage with him, leaving the legendary seducer devas-tated. The hiography devotes a chapter to each of them.

Gaby Lespinasse was the fo-cus of his desires in 1915. She was a very sweet girl who is thought to have danced in the caharet," Montparnasse

Richardson says.
"Her lover was Herbert
Lespinasse, whom she subsequently married, and who was one of the creators of St Tropez. He had a house there, which was a centre of bohemian life. Picasso and Gaby went there. like many others, to escape Paris during the war. They used it as a love nest.

There are many beautiful watercolours of the rooms by the Mediterranean, that are mique in Picasso's work. On the e sheets, there are love letters and descriptions of their

"He gave her all these, but they did not come to light until recently. They are very touching. A lot have the names of Gaby and Picasso entwined in different colours. They merge into one, their names, as it were, copulating. There is an other letter, in which Picasso says 'I love you' in every different colour. Here you can see the sweet and tender side of

"He had met Gaby while his mistress of the period, Eva, was dying of cancer. She was very young and beautiful. I don't know how he explained to her about his trips to St Tropez, because in November and De-rember 1915 he was going almost every day to see Eva. "When Eva died, Picasso as-

sumed that he would marry Gaby. But she decided to marry Herbert instead. She feli



Olga in an Armchair, by Picasso in 1917. and Olga married in 1918, but the bourgeois lifestyle stifled him. Below, the artist Photograph: Rex



latine Apollinaire, abducted

her. They took her to a villa in

the Paris suburbs. But Picasso

she would have a better life with him than with a great painter who was known to be possessive

didn't fasten the shutters well and difficult. and she escaped, although she "So, on the rebound, in the spring of 1916, Picasso fell came back of her own accord a madly in love with Irène Lagut. He and a friend, the poet, Guil-

the last minute, when they were going to meet family in Barcelona, she returned to her previous lover in Paris. Irène as basically a lesbian. That is why she went back and forwards between girlfriends and then boyfriends. She led a peculiar life – she had been kept by a Russian grandduke in She did however, become Pi-

casso's mistress again in 1923 and one of Picasso's most famous works. The Lovers (1923). showing a young man and a woman, is, reveals Richardson, of the couple.

"Irene recently died in an old people's home, aged 101," he said, "but a friend did meet her and like many old ladies with disreputable pasts, she denied all the stories. Fortunately, I found her letters in an archive in Florence."

The consequence of Picasso's second rejection, Richardson says, was that Picasso went in search once more of a wife. In spring 1917 he went to Rome to work with the Diaghilev Ballet. whose wartime headquarters were in Rome. There he met the Russian ballerina, Olga Khokhlova, whom he married in 1918 when he was 37.

He eventually tired of Olga, who introduced him to a stifling bourgeois lifestyle of middle class conformism and order. There were to he many more mistresses, including Francoise Gilot who famously remarked that Picasso treated all women like goddesses and then as doormats. She did not mind being a goddess, but she drew the line at the doormat.

"Picasso's feelings for women were extremely intense," Richardson said. "He could not function without a woman around. Dora Maar, his mistress from 1936 to 1944, told me that when women in Picasso's life changed, everything changed: the style of painting changed the band of friends changed, the poet - he always had a poet around - the house and the dog all changed.

"It is not strictly true, but it is quite true. And his relationship with women is reflected in his work. If he is tender with them, there is tenderness in his work. If a woman is sick you see it, as in portraits of his second wife, Jacqueline, who was frequently ill. And when women are replaced, you might have a painting with dark hair on one side and blonde on the other, so that a woman can see for her-

self that she is being replaced." Picasso's women do not always appear figuratively. "I have found that after 1910 Picasso paints his mistresses not as conventional figures, but perhaps as a guitar or an intrument that could be played," Richardson said. In one previously unknown

work found in Russia, small letters are scratched in a dark corner of the painting. They are "Eva" representing Eva Gonel, □A Life of Picasso, vol II, 1907life by John Richardson; published next month by Jonathan The affair was on and off un- Cape, £30

Sign of the times as syndrome sufferers stop defying definition

Arts News Editor

There is a dehilitating new disease called Syndrome Syndrome. It afflicts editors of the Collins English Dictionaries who spend months discovering new syndromes to put into their reference works.

Some 25 syndromes and their effects have been detailed by the seven-strong editorial team under Lorna Gilmour, the managing editor of Collins English Dictionaries. They are, says Ms Gilmour, a 90s phenomenon

will contain a number of them. Gulf War Syndrome, suffered by those who took part in the conflict, is definitely in the next edition, as is Jerusalem Syndrome - "a delusive condition affecting some visitors to Jerusalem, in which the sufferer identifies with a major figure from his or her religious back-

ground". Those of a more temporal persuasion risk the double whammy of Affluenza - "a feeling of guilt experienced by someone who is earning a lot of money",

Docket Syndrome - "sciatic pain caused by sitting on thick wallets", It could be worse. You might have given up the pursuit of wealth for a healthier lifestyle.

"a condition caused by overuse of exercise hicycles with wide seats and high handlebars, requiring a position which causes essure on the sciatic nerve".

Beware Pedal Pusher's Palsy -

Workers made redundant can breathe a sigh of relief that they will not fall prey to Survivor's Syndrome - "a chronic insecurity felt by employees

ing', causing apathy and a lack of trust in their company".

Curiously the one syndrome

that did make headlines this year, "Paradise Syndrome" - a feeling that things are going so well you must become ill and die, which the pop singer Dave Stewart claimed to have - has not registered with the Collins researchers, "That's a new one on us," said Lorna Gilmour. Perhaps her staff should read the papers more thoroughly or they may not last long enough



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA IN MR. BILL EDWARDS' POSITION, it isn't improper to spit.

As a taster for Jack Daniel Distillery, he'll sample a lot of whiskey in a day. But Bill never swallows a drop. He'll roll the whiskey around in his mouth, tasting it for smoothness and maturity. And when he retires it to a spittoon, there's no sense of impropriety. Around here, everyone knows if we didn't have people spending their days spittin', we wouldn't have a whiskey so highly valued for sippin'.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

bert 'I believed I was pregnant. My husband died in the hope that I was and the belief that I might be'



Diane Blood: We both thought artificial insemination was a wonderful way of helping unfortunate people have children

Diane Blood, widow of Stephen, plans to take her legal battle to have his baby to the Court of Appeal. Friends are appealing for funds to help her. This is what she told the High Court

We had previously been courting for nine years ... We were very close to both sets of parents. I work in advertising and public

relations. I set up my own company in January 1993 under a government enterprise scheme. My main fee business was from a leading manufacturer of preschool baby and nursery products. Stephen would help me scour

publications for relevant articles. Stephen and I had the good fortune to share similar religious beliefs and ethical values.

To have children was our plan right from the time when we decided (in 1988) to get engaged, pool our finances and buy a house ... We believed that the responsible thing to do was to have a family only when we were confident that

the time was right. Finally, I was confident at the end of 1994 that my financial affairs were stable

mough to enable us to start a family. We both thought artificial insemination was a wooderful way of helping unfortunate people have children. It often came up in conversation ... We also discussed organ donation.

We saw no objection to the posthumous use of a husband's sperm by his wife, provided that the interests of the family were properly protected. The arguments in favour of such use struck us as particularly compelling in the case of a married couple.

Stephen wished to donate his organs for the benefit of others, upon his death. I have no doubt that he would have wished sperm to be taken from him and used by me in the tragic circumstances of his untimely death.

I think probably in mid to late 1994 we talked specifically about a newspaper or magazine story about a widow who wanted to use sperm from her late husband. I remember that we talked about it sitting around the dining room table.

We thought it was lovely that, if she wanted a child, she still had the opportunity to have the child of perhap the only man she would ever love.

We began actively trying to conceive. We installed new fitted furniture in the spare bedroom ... We wondered how we would react wheo the child grew up and stuck horrible stickers on the nice units.

We had been having regular sex without contraception. I actually believed that I was pregnant. Stephen died in the hope that I was and the belief that I might well be.

The Stephen Blood Baby Appeal can be contacted on 0121-643 4636

CRASH

-

Morality, ethics and interference

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

What possible social or public policy can be said to justify the cruel and unnatural" decision to deprive Diane Blood of the use of her dead husband's sperm?

So says the fertility expert Lord Winston, Professor of Fertility Studies at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital in west Londoo. His support for Mrs Blood's case seems the rational, ordinary people might think was right in a case where a couto have children.

After all, children are born into far less satisfactory circumstances than the caring environment that would be on offer from Mrs Blood and her extended family. That the wonders of modern medical science were so freely available to Mandy Allwood - whose fertility treatment resulted in her becoming pregnant with octuplets, all of whom she miscarried this month heightens the sense of injustice.

The alternative view is that the decision to bring what will be a tatherless child into the world is such a serious one that rigorous safeguards must be applied. At

The emphasis on the pragmatic and practical stands in harsh contrast to Diane Blood's turmoil

least one doctor, and probably others, have described the process of extracting sperm from The feature that marks out

Mrs Blood's case from a series of others where doctors have brought their ethical dilemmas before the courts is the existence of detailed legislation painstakingly drawn up by Parliament after a lengthy committee of inquiry into human fertilisation which reported in 1984. In retrospect, even that de-tailed examination of the issues

could not anticipate all eventualities. In her evidence to the court, Baroness Warnock, who had chaired the inquiry. highlighted the kind of fine dividing line which no one had foreseen: "In the case of postnumous birth, we envisaged that, as a general rule, sperm would have heen frozen with a view to pregnancy before a man became ill, or at the onset of his illness, and that therefore agreement would be presumed, the couple being treated as one [in which case no written consent is required]. We did not even hypothetically consider the present case,"

and Embryulogy Authority's is best for them.

strict application of a strict law - which was not so unreasonable, said Sir Stephen Brown, the High Court judge who oo Thursday upheld the HFEA's decision to block treatment to Mrs Blood, as to entitle a court to interfere with it - is none the less in line with the inquiry's overall approach. It spelt out "grave misgivings" in its report about artificial insemination by a husband (AIH) in one type of

situatioo: "A man who has placed semen in a bank may die and his commonsense point of view, in widow may then seek to be inline with what large numbers of seminated. This may give rise to profound psychological prohlems for the child and the mothple in a stable marriage planned er ... The use by a widow of her dead husband's sperm for AIH is a practice which we feel should be actively discouraged."

> The inquiry accepted that there could be some requests. and emphasised the need for some finality for those administering estates of deceased persons since, in such cases, posthumous fertilisation could cause real problems of inheritance and succession. Account would have to be taken of issue who might he born years after the death".

That emphasis on the prag-matic and the practical stands in harsh contrast to Diane Blood's human turmoil. Looking at the debates it was clear, Sir Stephen said, that written consent was considered to be a matter of "fundamental importance"

Before regulation was intro-duced decisions of this kind would have been taken by individual clinicians based on the merits of the case. Some doctors, lawyers, legislators and lay people believe that the dif-ficult medicoethical questions are hest dealt with in this way. Experience has proved that this is not the whole answer, and has shown that even where Parliament has not intervened, an-guished clinicians frequently turn to the courts 10 make final. often life or death, decisions. The kinds of case that have gone to law in these circumstances

are no less ethically vexed. Take the series of decisions where, without parliamentary authority, the courts have ruled that a woman has no right to risk her own death and that of her unborn child by withholding consent to a Caesarean birth. While so far confined to cases where it is thought that both mother and haby would die, the rulings rep-resent a treed in which the courts have edged away from the principle that medical interventions canoot be imposed except where the patient is mentally ill

They show that the principle of consent is becoming a much more flexible concept when seeking to preserve life hut not, it seems from Diane Blood's case, wheo seeking to

The troubling thread running through it all, which many had hoped had been long buried, is the unmistakable impression But the Human Fertilisation that women may not know what



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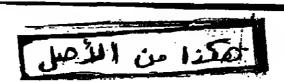


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NIPE OUT 2097

As the two-year McLibel trial slowly draws to a close, an alternative campaign appears to be gaining ground. On the one signis McDonald's and a burgeoning legal team; on the other one Albert Beale, from Bloomsbury, London.

He is frustrating the fast

food giant's attempts to extend opening hours at two London branches. So successful has he been that he is offering himself as a "freelance antiplanning consultant" to other people wishing to oppose Mc-



Donald's late licences. Mr Beale, who edits an inly mational directory of peace environmental organisa-trons from King's Cross, in London, began his campaign wheo he found that two Mo-Donald's branches near his home - one in King's Cross and one in New Oxford Street - had applied for late licences.

"I'm the kind of person who goes around reading small print. I thought well, as a concerned local citizen, I don't like this. I lodged lengthy objections with



Relishing a battle: Albert Beale is offering himself as an "anti-planning consultant" to those who oppose McDonald's applications for late licences Photograph: Kevin Weaver

Camden council pointing out that there would be the added litter, plus local disturbance in

mittee in support of my objec-

cil hearing in July, he presenttions." ed 40 pages of manuscript from Mr Beale also objected on the McLibel trial - which cona residential area. One of the local ward councillors has even written to the licensing com
wife beate also objected on the microcitrial - which coil cerns a leaflet about the hurgered McDonald's to be "not fit or company - to support his was represented by daim. The licensing hearing, at-

tended by two McDonald's representatives and a planning consultant, was deferred.

from a top legal firm. Mr Beale managed to again have the decision deferred. By the third meeting, last Tuesday, Me-Donald's team had grown to nine. The licensing committee

overruled McDonald's objections to the campaigner's request to film the meeting for the McSpotlight Internet site, part of a campaign supporting the two defendants in the McLibel nical argument, Mr Beale managed to ensure decisions on both applications were again de-

As the meeting was ad-journed, McDonald's lawyer, Philip Kolhil, told the committee: "We're not going to wail forever," to which the chairman replied; "In that case, it could

Mr Beale sees himself as an expensive little thorn in Me-Donald's side. But he accepts that if refused late licences, Mc-Donald's is likely to continue the legal process and this could be risky for local councils who do not want huge legal hills.

In the meantime, he and a fellow objector hope to extend their campaign. "To be honest, I didn't think I'd last the first meeting. McDonald's were certainly surprised that we've fought them through three.

Mr Beale thinks the battle will end within weeks, but he is producing a fact sheet on how people can block other Me-Donald's late licences.

They've got to renew their night licences every year so we'll block them every year. Since McDonald's can be represented by a consultant, we will offer ourselves as anti-planning consultants free."

A spokesman for McDonald's said yesterday that Mr Beale was known as an anu-Me-Donald's campaigner. He said there was "nothing unusual" in the extended committee hearings, or in the number of people McDonald's employed to

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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER

Blair's drinks Tory hackles

Political Correspondent

Tony Blair has been accused of breaking19th-century laws against "corrupt practices" by providing voters in two key narginal seats with free drinks. New voters coming on to the

electoral register in Blackpool were invited to a party on the Saturday before this month's Labour conference for the chance to meet Tony Blair and have a good night out".

Harold Elletson, the Conservative MP for Blackpool North, yesterday threatened legal action under the law against "treating" - the practice of providing free food or drink to influence electors which was an accepted feature of British elections until the Reform Act of 1832.

Most of the drink at the party for young people was sold at a cash bar, but some was provided free by Creation Records, the Oasis record company which sponsored the event.

The local Labour Party invited people on the electoral roll in the two Blackpool constituencies who turned 18 this year, and some who have reached voting age since the last election. They were contacted by telephone and around 200 turned up at the Norbreck Castle hotel. A Labour spokesman said the

purpose of the event was to let young people see that "we're oot all anoraks with glasses But Mr Elletson told The In- summary of electoral law.

dependent: "I am shocked and disgusted by such a hlatant attempt to undermine the democratic process."

He is defending a notional 7,000 majority on new houndaries; Blackpool South is now an ultra-marginal scat with a majority of less than 400 and a Tory MP, Nick Hawkins, who has gone on the "chicken run" to a safe southern England seat.

Mr Elletson said he had taken advice from Tory Central Office, which was that, if the event was held on behalf of the Labour candidates in those seats, it could be illegal. "This appears in be a corrupt practice. If the Labour Party cannot provide answers as to exactly what they were up to, I will take this further," he said. The Labour spokesman described the complainl as "nonsense".

"Treating" was nutlawed in 1883, in measures now incorporated in the Representation of the People Act 1983. An official at Central Office in London, said he was "looking for people at the event who would be prepared to testify". He said the party was reminiscent of the days of rotten boroughs and bought elections. It was "something that most agents would not do because it's too close to breaching the spirit of the law if not the letter".

For treating to be a criminal offence, somebody has to be "corrupted and induced by treating" to vote in a particular held together by sticking plas-ter". The party featured a baod to prove. But it would still be ilcalled 18-Wheeler. "It was a legal if "refreshments were de-normal Saturday night out." liberately provided to influence liberately provided to influence an election", according to one

Gun clubs may get lottery cash

Michael Streeter

Gun clubs threatened with closure by the Government's proposed ban on most handguns could be eligible for money from the National Lottery to nelp them stay in husiness.

National officials from shooting organisations are urging clubs to apply for grants from the Sports Council to improve the security of their buildings, which must meet stringent requirements to store 22 calibre pistols and handguns. These are the only handguns to escape the ban announced early this week in the wake of the Cullen report into the Dunhiane massacre last March in which 16 children and a teacher were shot dead.

The Sports Council confirmed to The Independent yesterday that such bids would be considered, and could meet the funding guidelines. A spokeswoman for the council said that one aim of the grants was to improve clubhouses. And increasing security was n way of doing that, she said.

grants to gun clubs which fol-lowed Dunblane, nine organisations had received a total of £263,000 in lottery eash.

Colonel John Hoare, the secretary of the National Smallbore Rifle Association, said: "We believe they will be legitimate claims. The purpose of the grants is to increase the participation of the young and the disabled. We need to broadeo the base of the participants if we are tn continue to compete in the Olympics."

Jackie Walsh, of the Dunblane-based Soowdrop Campaign which wants to sec a ban on all handguns, said: "This is an appalling idea. The Government appears to be taking with one hand but giving back with the other. In some cases clubs will be better off than they were before."

Richard Doubleday, spokesman for Gally Hill Shooting Club in Surrey, said it won £99,000 lonery money last January and would build a clubhouse to meet the security requirements. Without that, "we could

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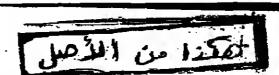
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Dorrell acts to protect children

The absence of a requirement

Mr Burgner added that local

authority homes should be sub-

ject to the same rules as homes

run by the voluntary and private

sector, and that there should be

new national benchmarks on

Mr Dorrell said that the Gov-

ernment had accepted these

recommendations and that a

White Paper aimed at closing

gaps would be published in Jan-uary. "We are committed to

promoting and defending high standards of professional prac-

tice," he told the conference in

Edinburgh. "The time is right for

further development of practice

Mr Burgner's report also

covered the regulation of resi-

dential care and nursing homes

for the elderly, suggesting that

the legal distinction between the two should be abolished.

case for this kind of "single care

home" has not been convinc-

ingly made," said Mr Dorrell.

"But we want to hear what oth-

Counsel and Care, the char-

ers think about this key issue."

ity which gives help to older peo-

ple, urged the Government to

go further on inspection for

homes, saying the announce-ments were "inadequate".

ment's announcement," said

Jeff Smith, the charity's gener-

al manager. But those outlined

do not go far enough. There

needs to be a new, tougher sys-

tem to promote high and con-

sistent standards of care and to

span the current professional

split between residential care

We welcome the Govern-

"Our initial view is that the

and conduct standards."

standards for homes operated

by councils and others:

provided."

Gienda Cooper

a gap in regulatory arrange-ments that leaves vulnerable Ministers acted yesterday to protect children in residential children at risk," says the report. homes following a wave of scandals which exposed widespread sexual and physical abuse. Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary to register is a fundamental handicap in ensuring that an ad-equate standard of care is be-

of State for Health, told the Association of Directors for Social Services annual conference that ministers would tighten the law and extend regulations on registration to homes with less than four children.

The move was announced amid a rise in the number of small homes for children, and increasing concern about abuse. Last year, a highly critical report by the Social Services Inspectorate warned that lack of registration in privately run children's homes meant that sex abusers have been able to set up institutions, with local authorities often taking a "lax ap-proach" to investigating them.

The inspectorate said that in some small homes it found fraudsters working, and people subsequently convicted of sexual and physical abuse. At present, small homes do not have to register under the 1989 Children's Act, nor are they obliged to carry out police checks.

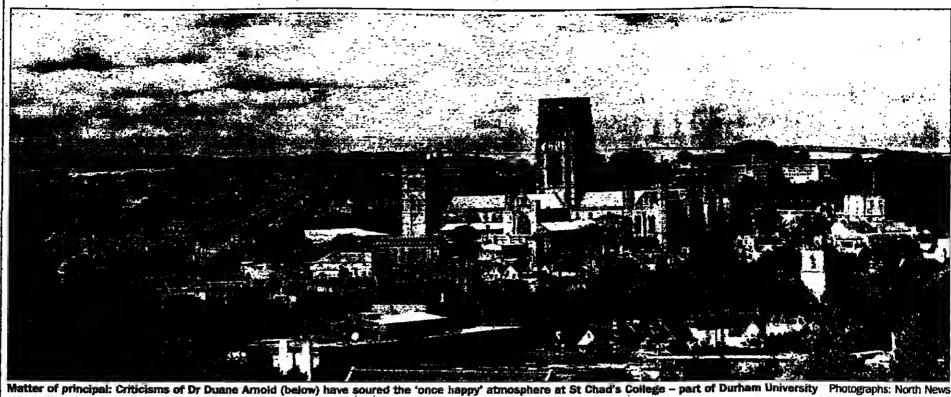
"It is anomalous that [these homes] should be exempt from registration," said Mr Dorrell, "particularly in a field where the risks of abuse are well-known."

Changes in social services over recent years meant the regulatory system, aimed at protecting vulnerable people, was out of date, he said.

Wis speech came as a report was published on the regulation and inspection of social services. The study, by a former civil servant. Tom Burgner, makes a number of key recommendatiuns, including calls for trading standards or councils chief executive departments to take over responsibility from social services

Durham asks who really is who in college row

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University community split as tutors lose confidence in their principal

Ben Summers and Paul Tyrrell

The future of the principal of one of Durham University's most prestigious colleges has been thrown into doubt after he was found to have supplied misleading accounts of his background to the university and Who's Who.

The Rev Duane Arnold, 43, was heralded as Durham's answer to some of Oxbridge's famously flamboyant and eccentric dons when he was appointed principal of St Chad's in 1994.

Since then, there has indeed been spectacle - rumoured to include high-table toasts to "His Imperial Majesty King Edward VII", and a new candelit mauguration ceremony, in Latin, for freshers.

But there has also been controversy. Thirteen college tutors, among them the chaplain and vice-principal, have left office since Dr Arnold's arrival from the US in October 1994. Four of the tutors were on the college council, which is instrumental in deciding policy; another nine council members have also departed, plus four non-teaching staff, including the college secretary and accountant.

On his resignation from the college, senior lecturer Charles will keep in touch and that we

The Rev-Amold's entry in "Who's Who' lists an Impressive number of qualifications, but many of the institutions concerned claim no knowledge of him.

MiNew York University claims no knowledge of his 1979 NYU BA degree. Dr Amold's entry in Who's Who In America from the year that he became St Chad's college principal claims a 1979 BA not from NYU, but from the State University of New York at Al-

being, which also said it had no record of him.

"EConcordia University in Quebec, said that there was no mention of Dr Amold in its records, which date back to 1976. Philadelphia University doesn't exist. The existence of a 1983 Diploma in Theology from Cambridge

University is not known to the records department of Cambridge University . A spokesperson said: "No Duane Amold is on the record as having matriculated at Cembridge." A spokesperson for 'Who's Who' yesterday confirmed that Dr Amold

had signed the form upon which he listed his qualifications for publication in the 1996 edition of Who's Who'. The company then sent him a proof copy to be checked before publication. Dr Arnold mede no corrections to this, but some more information was added. The proof was signed again by him, and was then returned to Who's Who' for publication. Both signed forms are still in the possession of the company.

Shaw wrote to the JCR presideor: "I feel great regret that I am leaving what was once a happy college and guilt for deserting you at a time when all St Chad's students will need such moral support. I hope that you

shall meet again in college in happier times. In the meantime I shall not set foot in St Chad's while Dr Arnold is principal."

A letter sent to Dr Arnold on June I 1996 and signed by 14 college tutors read: "We are ...

disruption to the orderly and harmonious working of the college, due to the breakdown in personal relationships. We therefore wish to record that we cannot continue to have confidence in you as principal of St

Chad's college."
In a statement issued on 11 October, Durham University said that although it had "no doubt that the principal holds the qualifications necessary for the post to which he was appointed", it was informing the college - Dr Arnold's employer - that it had found "dis-crepancies" in "material which was supplied to the university for an application for a work permit in 1994".

Until yesterday, the college council, whose head is the Rt Rev Michael Henshall, Bishop of Warrington, made it clear it

was supporting Dr Arnold.

Yesterday, hnwever, the
Bishop issued a statement which said he was now investigating the allegations, and that "in due course the college council will form a view and act accordingly".

Dr Arnold was unavailable

for comment yesterday, but he was earlier reported to have blamed the discrepancies on clerical errors, which he had dealt' as sooo as they were deeply concerned about the drawn to his attention.



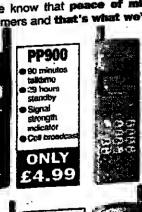
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The heart of Britain's defence up for offer: Overseas buyers welcome

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent ministers have warned the Treasury that any deeper cuts in the defence budget would hit the The Ministry of Defeoce buildfront-line capability, and risk breaking a clear commitment.

ing in Whiteball could be sold to a foreign bidder under plans

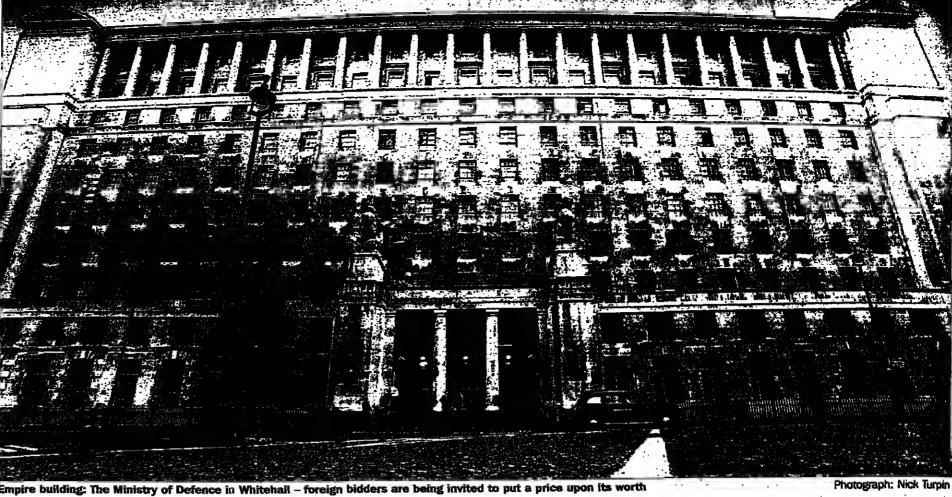
for a lease-back arrangement to

pay for a £165m redevelop-

meot of the building.

It is part of the Govern-

The statues of war heroes such as Montgomery and Slim are mute, but the sale raises questions about what they would have said if they had known the MoD building itself was to be sold to



huilding is being prepared for sale as part of the Government's private finance initiative scheme. A Japanese hank, Nomura International, was part of the consortium which recently agreed to pay £1.6bn for the MoD married quarters.

Defence officials said last night that it was too sooo to say who would be potential bidders

fice space in the prime central London spot, but foreign bidders were not being ruled out.

Although the ownership would change, the MoD would retain a very long lease oo the building and under these terms, one leading property adviser said yesterday that the sale of the building could be in the re-

MoD will remain in control of the entire building.

Two other MoD buildings in

central London - Northum-berland House and Metropole House in Northumberland Avenue - will be closed and offered for sale as part of the deal. The MoD would retain the old War Office and the defence secretary's grace-and-favour

building near Admiralty Arch. The move to sell the MoD building is part of the Government's private finance initiative. It could take place in 1998-99. which would mean that refurbishment work would not be completed until the next

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-cellor, warned the Cabinet last week that deeper cuts in spend-

ing would be needed to find room for tax cuts in the forthcoming Budget before chairing a Cahinet expeoditure committee (EDX) to try to cut up to £5bn off public expenditure

But ministers believe cuts of that order could be too much to expect in an election year. "It

down is not easy and certain de-partments are lighting fiercely,? said a source. Defence, roads, prisons and social security are

in line for cuts. Mr Clarke reviewed the options with senior ministers and officials, including the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise last Friday at Dorneywood, is going to be very tight in the sease that getting spending in Buckinghamshire, the Chan-cellor's official country residence. in Buckinghamshire, the Chan-





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Major confesses to a blot in the finances

Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister gave a hluntly honest assessment of the country's economic prospects yesterday, describing higherthan-forecast government bor-rowing as a "blot on the borizon" and a "problem".

His commeots seemed to close down the option of tax cuts' as Treasury ministers met to discuss oext month's Budget in Dorneywood, the Chancellor's country residence.

John Major told business leaders at a breakfast in Chelmsford, Essex "Inflation is an independent audit of govas much under lock and key as ernment finances before the I can ever remember it and inward investment is rising. The only ecocomic hlot on the borlzon is the size of the fiscal deficit. That is a problem."

Labour seized on the admission that the City was right to be worried about public borrowing. Figures this week sug-

£27bn forecast by Keoneth Clarke, the Chancellor, only four mooths ago. That figure was already £4.5bn higher than Mr Clarke's forecast in last November's Budget.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said: "Mr Major's frank admissioo reveals the true state of public finances which the Tories have been trying to conceal. The fact is that the parlous state of public fioances reveals the long-term

weakness of the economy. He repeated his call for

The Prime Minister's unusually frank comments contrast with receot assertions that borrowing is under control. This week's latest borrowing figures were said by the Treasury to have been "distorted".

But they back up Mr Clarke's

gested this year's borrowing comments three weeks ago figure could be bigher than the which caused near apoplexy among many Tory MPs. "1 not the case that my Budget quires tax cuts in order to win the election." be told GMTV.

"The public will be deeply suspicious of any tax cuts because they remember we promised tax cuts last time and unfortunately we weren't able to deliver them."

Part of the explanation for Mr Major and Mr Clarke's commeots may have been the annual ritual of lowering expectations in advance of the Budget and of pre-empting pressure from Conservative back-

beochers for dramatic tax cuts. But it would be difficult for Mr Clarke now to justify tax cuts approaching the top end of City expectations, of between £2bn and £4bn. And it would be the standard rate of income tax Tories' long-term objective.



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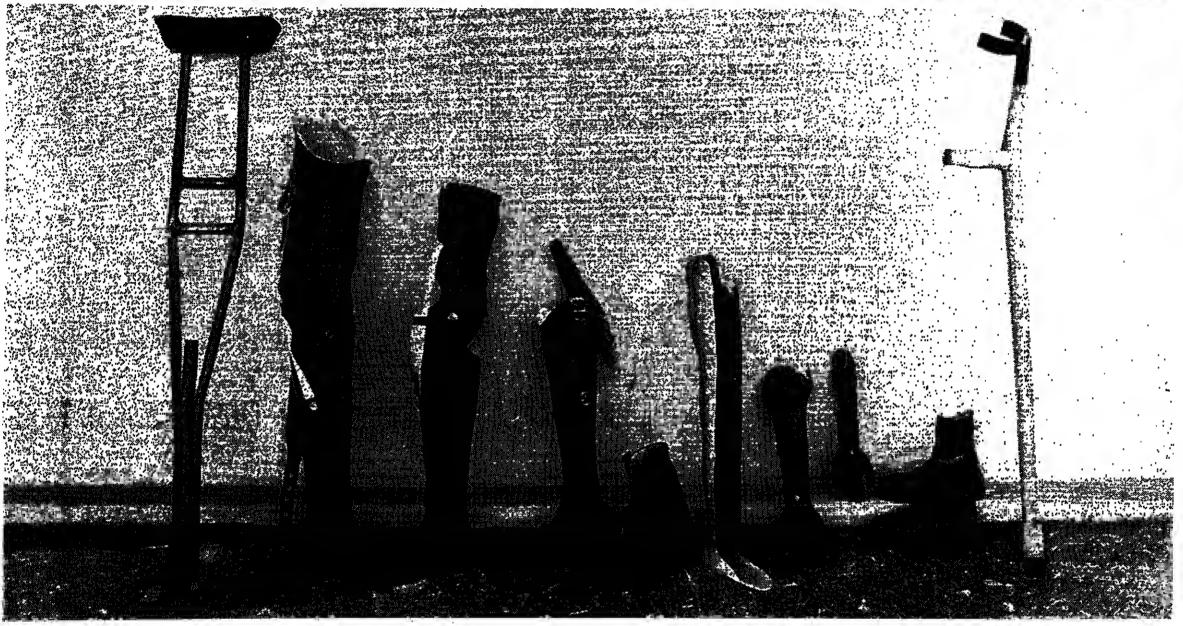
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Stalking laws will also cover racial offences dividuals may abuse the probehaviour more than once that dividuals may abuse the pro-posed legislation to foil legitically cause harassment, alarm or dismate work carried out by tress, could be imprisoned for

Crime Correspondent

Tough anti-stalking laws pro-posed yesterday by the Government will also protect victims of racial and neighbour ha-rassment, with offenders facing up to five years in jail.

The plans are more hard-hitting than expected - a persoo could be prosecuted if they harass someone twice. Similarly, an injunction to prevent unwanted admirers sending gifts and making calls can be obtained if the nuisance activities occur more than once. Police will also be given the

powers to arrest a suspect without a warrant and search them and their property.

BELLING MESSA STATE COME
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investigative journalists.

The planned laws are a combination of civil and criminal measures and a new injunction designed to deter low-level harassment, and two criminal offences, have been created.

Several thousand people, mainly women, are thought to be the targets of stalkers every year - but at the moment they have no legal way of preventing such harassment. Far more people suffer racial harassment. abuse and intimidation, and countless resideots have to endure noisy neighbours.

The Government intends to to a Tory backbencher to pilot to five years in jail. through the Commons. If it enjoys all-party support, it could become law by Easter.

Under the proposals, anyone

up to six months and/or face a

Courts would also be able to make a restraining order immediately after convicting a person of either of the two crimmal offences. A breach of the order, which may state the offender must not contact the victim, would earry a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Under the civil remedy, a victim will be able to seek a restraining injunction from the courts if the words or behaviour, used on more than one occasion, caused the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed. introduce the measures, which will apply in England and Wales, in a ready-made Private Member's Bill to be entrusted in offences punishable by on

Announcing the initiatives David Maclean, the Home Office minister, said their reach could extend beyond stalking to who uses words or behaviour. help protect the victims of othon more than one occasion, er forms of harassment. "These which puts their victim in fear new laws will give help to peoof violence could face up to five ple being harassed by their years' imprisonment and/or an neighbours, and they will also unlimited fine. In the lesser of- provide protection to the victims

Ordeal that led to the call for change

The Government plans to tighten the law on stalking after a series of high-profile cases.

After one such case, Anthony Burstow, 36, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment last March for causing Tracey Sant, 28, grievous bodily harm. She had been subjected to three years of harassment.

Ms Sant said yesterday: "Nobody understands what being stalked is like unless they go through it. I was told just to ignore it and he would go away. But they don't go away, they just get worse."

Ms Sant, who met Burstow, a Falklands War veteran, while working with him at Gosport naval depot in Hampshire, kept a diary of her ordeal.

It recorded that the stalker Speaking at the one-day Suzy Lamplugh Trust Stalking Conference at Westminster, she added: "It was horrific. I felt

criminal justice system. the problem in the hud - and with me."



let down by legal system

prevent other women going through the ordeal I had to

She continued: following her, phoning and changed woman. In one way I even bugging the house she am stronger, but not in anothshared with her husband Andy. er. I am very wary of men in gen-

"I get very worried if a car being driven by a man gets too close to my vehicle. At the time alienated and let down by the I was being stalked, I hated answering the phone or getting I hope this new law will nip mail. That anxiety has stayed

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Vs Meltdown er puts guns es back on the street

A US project has found a new use for weapons - as manhole covers

David Usborne Hartford, Connecticut

Stacked three-deep on sagging wooden pallets, the man-hole covers are yellowing with oxidisation. Obviously, they are fresh from the foundry. Only closer inspection reveals their other, more exceptional, secret: they are also fresh from the illing fields of modern urban emerica. Oven-fresh, in fact. Arranged for public viewing

outside the Wadsworth Atheneum gallery in Harrford, the covers, 228 m all, are more than an unusual art exhibit. They are also a memorial to the thousands of Americans, most of them young men, cut down

How so? Because they have been moulded from iron melted down from 11,194 illegal guns collected by Connecticut's police since 1992.

Created by Maine artist entitled his exhibit: The Man-Bradley McCallum and un-hole Cover Project: A Gun Legaveiled for public viewing this. week, few projects have so vividly depicted the scale of America's firearms crisis or. more pertinently, of the efforts of its law enforcement and political leaders to get to grips with gun control.

In this state alone, 320 young people have been killed by guns since 1988, many of them in Hartford itself.

There is an added poignan-their presence. This city the home of Sam Colt, who introduced the first revolvingchamber handgun, and who, just to the south of here, once operated the world's biggest firearms factory.

-

Next spring, the covers will be symbolically returned to the streets where today, so many of the gun battles are fought. Some of the covers, which bear "SEWER" in large orint around their outside, will he installed in the streets around the gallery.

Many others, however, will be placed around Hartford schools and in neighbourhoods where gun violence has been most prevalent.

Their origins, meanwhile, will be on display for all to see. Imprinted on each cover is the

message: "Made from 172 lbs of your confiscated guns". In addition is the Latin motto of the Colt company: Vincit qui patitur and its two optional translations: "He who perseveres is victorious" and "He

who suffers conquers". In fact, the state of Con necticut has been sending guns confiscated by the police to a Massachusetts foundry where all of the state's manhole covers are made since 1992.

The practice was instituted by the former Connecticut gov-ernor, Lowell Weicker, Previously, guns collected by the police were sold at auction, which meant many of them finding their way back to the streets and to acts of crime.

"Hopefully, this project will serve as a catalyst for dialogue that will address how we can manage guns in a instructive said McCallum, who has hole Cover Project: A Gun Lega-cx He likens his work to the old adage of beating swords into

Viewers of the piles of covers can also listen at audio stations to testimonies from a collection of local teenagers who have either witnessed gun violence, been the victims of it, or shot someone themselves.

One voice is of young black man, who, with his mother, witnessed a close friend being gunned down while driving through a city neighbourhood in his car.

Minutes earlier, he had been with him in the car. "You know, it is always like that. I was just with him. People are always saying that. And you think that could have been you". He calls his a "lost generation" because of gun violence, and blames the police and the gov-ernment. They make em CUIDS) REVAILABLE TO US

Among those feeling the power of McCallum's exhibition is Inez Yoder, a retired visitor from California. "I think what he has done is just wonderful," she says.

"You look at these covers and you understand the weight of it all. And I mean that litcrally and figuratively".



Elizabeth Nash Madrid

The Prado museum in Madrid, which has suffered repeated blows to its prestige in recent months, is reeling from the revelation that a fake was glued to the wall of one of its hallowed rooms and went unnoticed for four days.

The picture, by an unknown artist, was put up in room 59, which contains works by Rembrandt. It was discovered when two tourists tried to identify it.

The traumatised museum announced late on Thursday a week after the hoax was perpetrated - that it would investigate what went wrong and make public the results. A for-mer Prado director, Alfonso Perez Sanchez, described the lapse as "an unpardonable and very serious failure" of the mu-

seum's security systems.
The stunt has revealed a seething malaise that has long afflicted employees of the museum, which has one of the world's finest art collections. The 30cm by 40cm fake,

signed by "VR Roizo" and depicting a skull, is entitled The Aftermath. Framed in the same gilded style as its fellows, it rested inconspicuously amid a clutch of distinguished Flemish still-lifes. The museum's curator of Flemish paintings, Matias Diaz Padron, said it was "quite well done, the work of a painter of some quality".

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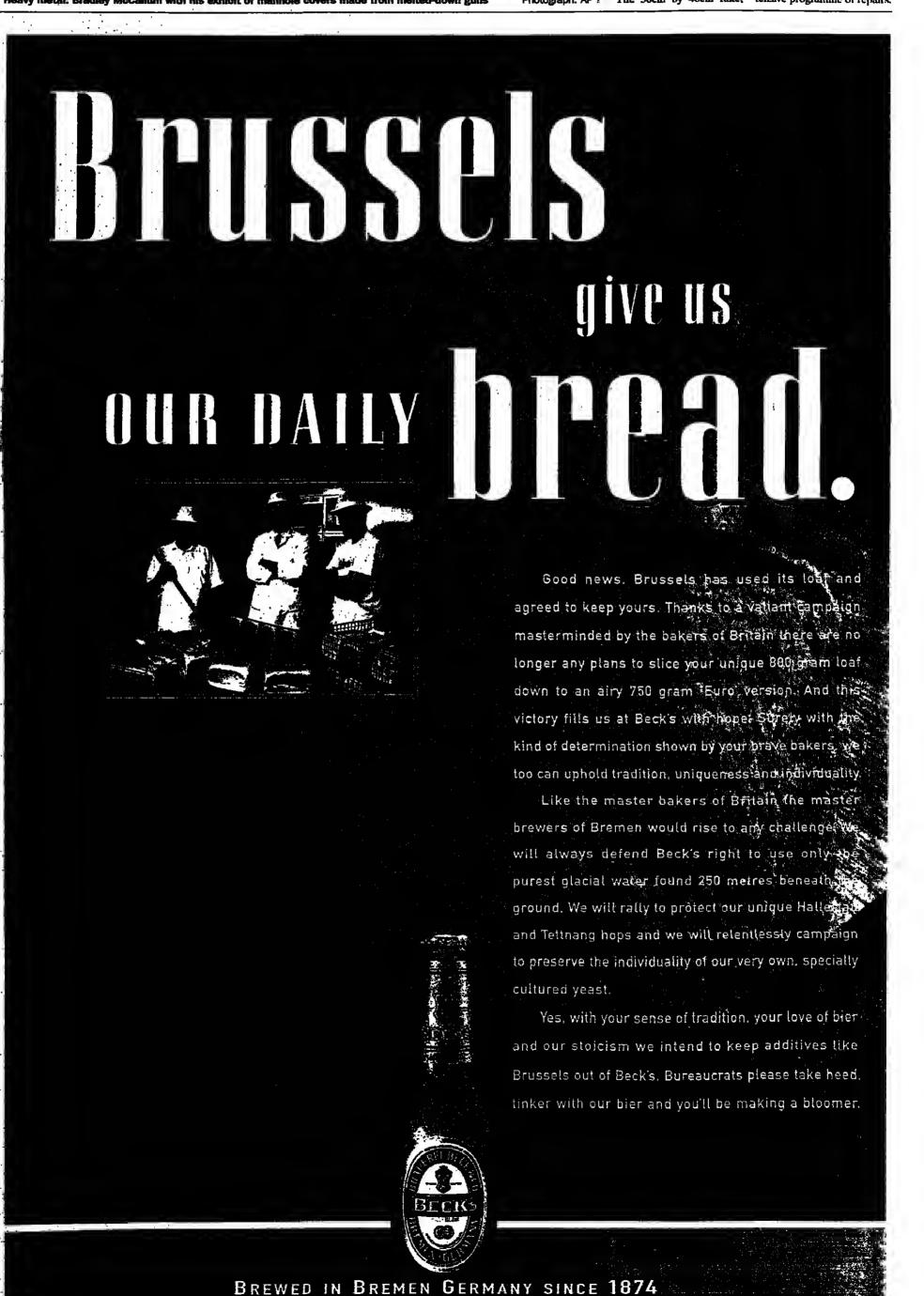
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The hoax is thought to have been carried out while the museum was closed, prompting speculation that it was an inside job. A security guard reported an extra painting in room 59 on Friday 11 October but the offending work was not removed until the following Tuesday.

A row is raging between security guards responsible for the museum's interior - public employees on the Prado payroli and those on the doors who are employed by a security companv. Those responsible for the interior say they are desperately short-staffed and that the management never informs them of constant changes in paintings' whereabouts caused by an extensive programme of repairs.



Scientologists declare war on Nazi Germany The Jews, understandably,

hure Karacs

After months of skarmishes, the Charch of Scientology has declared total war on Germany, accusing it of Nazi-style intolerance towards adherous of the Chifornia-based religion. A fall-page advertisement in Thursday's New York Times newspaper drew parallels between the Holocaust and German attempts to curtail the activities of Scientologists. Headlined "Germany Then



coraged Holocaust survivors

and New? and appearing under the sweether and the imperial ea-get the advertisement has pro-veiged a furious reaction from Holocaust survivors and the US State Department, and an barrassed silence from Germembers of the sect. "You wonder why German offitis discriminate against Sci-ntologists," the advertisement aid. There is no legitimate reason but then there was none that justified the persecution of the Jewish people either."

were underwhelmed by the comparison. Ignatz Bubis, the leader of Germany's Jewish community, accused the Scientologists of falsifying history The advertisement, he said, was "an insult to German politi-cians and especially disparages remembrance of the suffering" endured by his people.

Even the United States government, which in the past had expressed criticism of Bonn's heavy handed treatment of the church, rushed to Germany's defence on this occasion.

This is an outrageous charge against the German government by an American group, Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said. "It bears no resemblance to the facts of what's going on there. The language used is needlessly provocative and not constructive, given the history of Germany. The German branch of the church would not

Relations between the Church of Scientology and Germany have been deteriorating since earlier this year, when the Boun government published a pamphlet accusing the sect of totalitarian tendencies. Several ministers have proposed a ban on the organisation, and an expalsion of church members from the civ-

il service. During the summer, members of the governing Christian Democrats' youth wing called for a boycott of the Hollywood movie Mission Impossible on the grounds that its star, Tom Cruise, was a Scientologist. The American jazz pianist Chick Corea was barred from performing at a state-sponsored concert in Bavaria for the same

Lebed's path beset with political traps

Boris Yeltsin's sacking of Alexander Lebed has certainly brought the security man closer to fulfilling his burning ambition to be Russia's next president, but the road ahead is littered with tank traps which could easily bring his route march to a halt.

As the reserve general yesterday scanned the cratered political landscape after being ahruptly jettisoned from the Kremlin by Mr Yeltsin's innermost coterie, he must surely have concluded that his position was strong, but not entirely secure.

No one disputes that Mr Lebed, with his strong military support, is the clear favourite to win an election if Mr Yeltsin dies or stands down from office in the oear future. But his prospects are less assured if the President remains in office for any length of time - either by recovering from his pending heart-bypass op-eration, or as a remote and sickly figurehead, controlled by his chiefof-staff, Anatoly Chubais, and Prime

Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Yesterday Mr Lebed dryly revealed he was planning a trip to the theatre in Moscow to see han the Terrible, saying the play, whose plot drips with intrigue and assorted skulduggery, would help him learn how to rule the country. (This was presumably a jibe at the dark machinations of the Kremlin elite who brought about his sacking). But he first oeeds to learn how to win the

Road to power

nation's vote, given that he says he is committed to democratic elections. Even before he was stripped of the secretaryship of the Security Council by Mr Yeltsin, he had become an opposition figure, hounding the government from the sidelines over the issues from which he stands to gain most - the Chechen war, military reform and the neglect of the army. He is sure to carry on doing so, sowing fears that he could destabilise the already angry and volatile military. "It is what everyone has feared for so long," said one western diplomat,

could be the rallying point for dis-affected military officers." Yet he is not yet particularly wellequipped for a long campaign. He has no large financial backing, no significant party, and no guarantee of national media support - vital factors if he is to re-emerge from the

"An exile politician of his stature

political wilderness.
Funds from Russian hig business
may not prove difficult to attract, so long as his chances of power remain high, although it will probably require a political trade-off. Nor will he necessarily experience the complete freeze-out that Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist candidate in July's presidential election, experienced at the hands of Russia's national tele-

Although they were manipulated by the Kremlin much of their censorship was self-imposed by jour-

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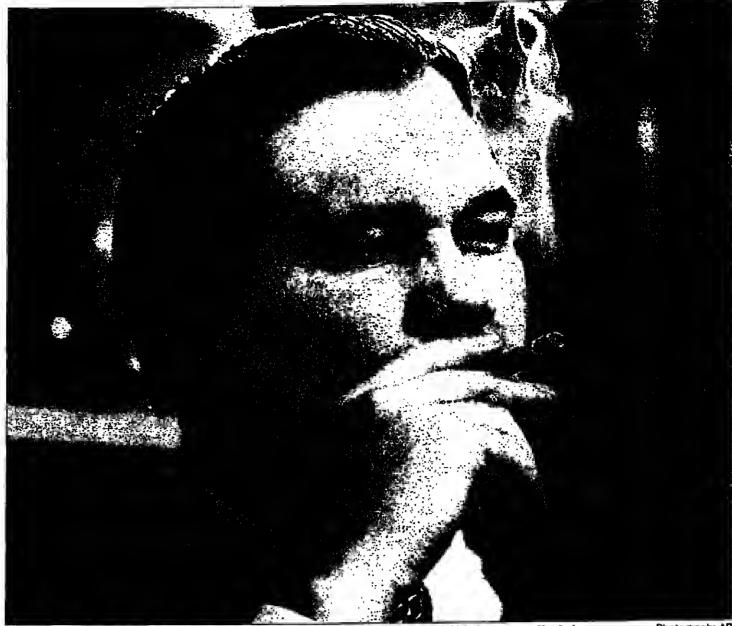
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mise fairness in order to avert what they feared would be a Communist crack-down on free speech. If the Yeltsin administration's popularity continues to slide, then the mass mcdia may he willing to switch horses.

Currying favour may out be easy, as he already has some powerful media enemies. Several Russian papers welcomed his firing - marking a change of tune from the hroad approval that greeted his appointment.
"He is an hysterical and inadequate politician," said Kommersant.

He also lacks a oationwide party infrastructure. Last week, three small political groups which support him formed a union which could provide him with an organisational framework. But Mr Lebed is not a particularly good organiser, preferring showmanship to paperwork. He is also a loner, who finds it difficult to forge alliances with other politicians without quarrelling.

Yet if these factors depress the general, then he can take heart from the experience of Boris Yeltsin. He, too, was dispatched into exile in 1987 when he was dismissed from the Politburo by Mikhail Gorbachev. After four years he returned to hu-miliate the Soviet president, and take power. And who was the one man who rushed loyally to his side and stayed there during his hour of deepest isolation? The former presidential bodyguard, General Alexan-der Korzhakov, Mr Lebed's latest



Smoking gun: Alexander Lebed's chances of to power will diminish the longer Boris Yeltsin stays at the helm

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Chechens fear that war will return

Carlotta Gall

People in Chechnya greeted the news of Alexander Lebed's removal with apprehensioo. We are very anxious, the struggle for power that is going oo in Moscow is far from funny," said chief Chechen spokesman Movladi Udugov, "Lebed was and is the key to a peaceful set-tlement in Chechnya and it is thanks to him there is no more

shooting," he said. The Chechen leadership issued a statement yesterday supporting the peace process and continuation of political dialogue. "But we are ready for any unexpected turn of eveots. if the war starts tomorrow we will not be especially surprised," Udugov said.

minister, Valery Fyodorov, exuded a sense of calm and order as he inspected a police unit sharing quarters with the Checheo fighters. "There should he no anxiety," Over Lebed's departure, he said. People come and go and the president stays the same. Questions of war and peace are the

decision of the president and the

Peace in danger

Russian troops from Chechnya would continue, said the commander of Russian interior ministry troops in Grozny, Gen-eral Vyacheslav Ovchinnikov, as would work on prisoner ex-

But the Chechen separa all said that Lebed was still oeeded to keep the peace process going. Although many of the Russian troops have beeo pulled in to two Russian bases on the north and east edges of Grozny, there are still scattered posts on the central plains around the city and concentrations of troops to the north of the republic, they said. No agreement has been reached for the withdrawal of

ing an estimated 18,000 men.
"I took part in some of the peace talks and I think Lebed was truly interested in finding a lasting peace," said Aslanbek Ismailov, one of Chechnya's top commanders who has been in charge in Grozny since the rebels seized it. "At the moment there is oo one better than



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Yeltsin's men fight to keep up appearances



tub of power: Viktor Chemomyrdin, right, with Igor Rodionov, defence minister, left, and a general yesterday

Triumphantly re-elected last July, President Boris Yeltsin is now struggling against a tide of political and personal crises, from Kremlin power struggles and a collapse in his popularity ratings to impending heart surgery that could end his career. Mr Yeltsin, 65, has been confined for all in, 65, has been confined for almost four months to a sanaturium nutside Moscow, a shadow of the man who campaigned so energeti-cally across Russia in May and June.

Europe Editor

Yet his aides carefully maintain the impression that he remains in charge. making personnel appointments, issuing statements and signing decrees. Last Saturday, for example, his press service published a telegram that he had sent to the citizens of Tula, a city south of Moscow cetebrating its 850th anniversary.

Tula guns, samovars, cakes, steelware and powerful modern weapons are famous not only in the country but all over the world. The city is lit up with the flame of blast furnaces and the undying spiritual light of Yas-uaya Polyana," the President wrote, referring to Leo Tolstoy's estate, which is in the region.

Is he still in charge?

meets the eye, for Tula recently turned into a battleground between two rival Kremlin factions. Mr Yeltsin sent the message after his for-mer friend and presidential security service chief, Alexander Korzhakov, whom he sacked last June, announced plans to run for parliament in a Tula by-election.

The seat fell vacant after Alexan-

der Lebed resigned it to take up the

posts of national security adviser and cil last June. Mr Lebed later teamed up with Mr Korzhakov, and the two men visited Tula last Sunday. However, anti-Lebed forces in the Kremlin were alarmed at the Lebed-Korzhakov alliance (the former a popular former army general, the latter a hawkish ex-KGB officer) and this week they brought about Mr Lebed's dismis

The anti-Lebedites are led by Mr Yeltsin's administrative chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, and the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and in-clude the President's daughter. Tatyana Dyachenko, and the hardline Interior Minister, Anathly Kulikov. The first three clearly have Mr Yeltsin's ear at present and may have against his better judgement.

Yeltsin's entnurage surely forced this decision on him," said Alexander Rahr, a German foreign policy specialist. "Yeltsin has rarely made a political mistake, and this seems tn be a very big political mistake."

If so, it may be that Mr Yeltsin's heart condition has seriously sapped his ability tu exercise authority. Mr Kulikov said on television last Wednesday: "The President's working regime does not permit him to see people every day. I have a schedule, far instance, and according to this schedule I have to see the President in the next five or six days."

A Moscow radin station said Mr Yeltsin's heart specialists thought there was only a 40 per cent chance that he would undergo an operation. It quoted staff at the Yevgeny Chazov Cardiological Centre as saying that his blood had an extremely low level of haemoglobin, and doctors had been unable to raise it to normal.

Lyudmila Telen, a Russian political commentator, said the main consequence of Mr Yeltsin's illness is that "at the moment all members of Russia's state hierarchy are trying to swallow up as much power as they

Lebed sacking clarifies role of armed forces

Christopher Bellanny Defence Correspondent

II'n

dange

The Russian military is unlikely to be directly or adversely affected by Alexander Lebed's sacking. Although he intervened in the issue of unpaid military salaries, warning that the military was no the verge of "armed revolt", he was not directly involved in the negntiatinns between the Defence Ministry and the Finance Ministry. Nor did he have any real authority to negotiate on Nato

Although he discussed the matter when he visited Brussels last week, the Russian Defence and Fareign Ministries appear to be resigned to working with Nato. And the other main issue for the military - the creation of all-professional armed forces - has been frozen indefinitely on though it was clear from the mo-President Yeltsin's orders.

Mr Lebed as a security supre- it out, no-one dared refute the istries who have armed forces. Defence, the Security Ministry and the Interior Ministry, will simplify matters. It will probably give mare freedom to the Defence Minister, Culonel-General Igor Rodionov. General Rodionov was appointed by Mr Lebed, but since then they have drifted apart. On Tuesday, just before he was sacked, Mr Lebed criticised General Rodionov in reorganizing the air-

The military

paratronps - in which Mr Lebed served as a general and who are among the few professinnally competent units. Their total strength is to be reduced from 64,300 to 48,500. Mr Lebed is no longer above General Rodionov in the government hierarchy, but it is likely that he will try to recruit supporters within the military and will still use his position as a politician to criticise any further changes Gen-Last week, on 9 October,

President Yelisin formally announced that his pre-election commitment to move to all-professional forces by 2000 had been shelved, possibly for years. Yuri Baturin, the Secretary of the Defence Council, said "al-

ment the decree was signed that In some ways, the removal of it would be impossible to carry He said nothing now prevents the Russian military from being "non-professional and draftoriented for years to come."

aloof from participation in the country's political life. But this must be codi-fied legislatively, sn as nnt to put military perhe said in December last year

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The hills are alive to the sound of Roman music



near the Forum in Rome to mark their launch of three CDs of Roman music

Cook's steady guide for a tour of Europe.

Robin Cook this week put his latest secret weapon on show. Sir Michael Butler, the shadow Foreign Secretary's special en-voy on Europe, made his first appearance in that role at a press

conference in Westminister. Sir Michael was as discreet as one would expect a former am-bassador to be. He spoke little and kept away from politics, though all the while his sharp eyes darted around the conference room. But his presence sent complex signals to Eu-rope, of which Sir Michael will

have been very aware. Sir Michael is the model of a Foreign Office grandee. Britain's longest serving ambassador to the European Union, he was also head of the unit which handled Britain's entry to Europe, and deputy under-secretary of state at the

Photograph: Domenico Stinellis/AP

Andrew Marshall on the Foreign Office grandee Labour has chosen as its EU envoy

bank Hambros, advised the gov-ernment of Ukraine, become deputy chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and published

Aftert Museum, and published two books on Chinese percelain. Beside these challenges, helping the Labour Party in Europe must seem small beer.

His task is to prepare for the British presidency of the EU, which will cover the first six months of 1998. During that time it is anticipated that netime it is anticipated that negotiations will begin on the

Foreign Office. Since leaving the diplomatic service he has become a director of the merchant EU. By then, Labour hopes to have won power; and it wants to ensure that this delicate process will be as carefully handled as possible, and that the handover from one party to another in London will cause minimum disruption. With that end in mind, Sir Michael has already met senior officials in Brussels and is embarking on a series of meetings with embassies in London and govern-

ments in East Europe. The policies of Labour and the Conservatives on enlargement are all but indistinguishable. Both see it as the most important task of the EU over the next five years. Both want to avoid causing problems to countries which are not in the first wave of enlargement. Both want to see it done at minimum cost. Labour is more explicit that enlargement means reforming EU institutions, but is equally insistent on preserving the British veto.

Both Mr Cook and Sir Michael used the occasion to at-tack the Tories. Sir Michael said their handling of the beef crisis had badly hurt British interests. Mr Cook said that Labour was committed to a "fresh start in Europe". But the sparring over domestic politics is largely beside the point. The appointment of Sir Michael seems to be squarely aimed at an overseas constituency, in both Eastern and Western Europe.

It is partly a practical matter. There are plenty of tough issues that the Labour Party will have to confront in Europe as soon as it takes over government, and most of them are conducted in a language so arcane that no matter how well briefed Mr Cook might be, he will initialy have trouble handling them. The last set of enlargement negotiations finished with a

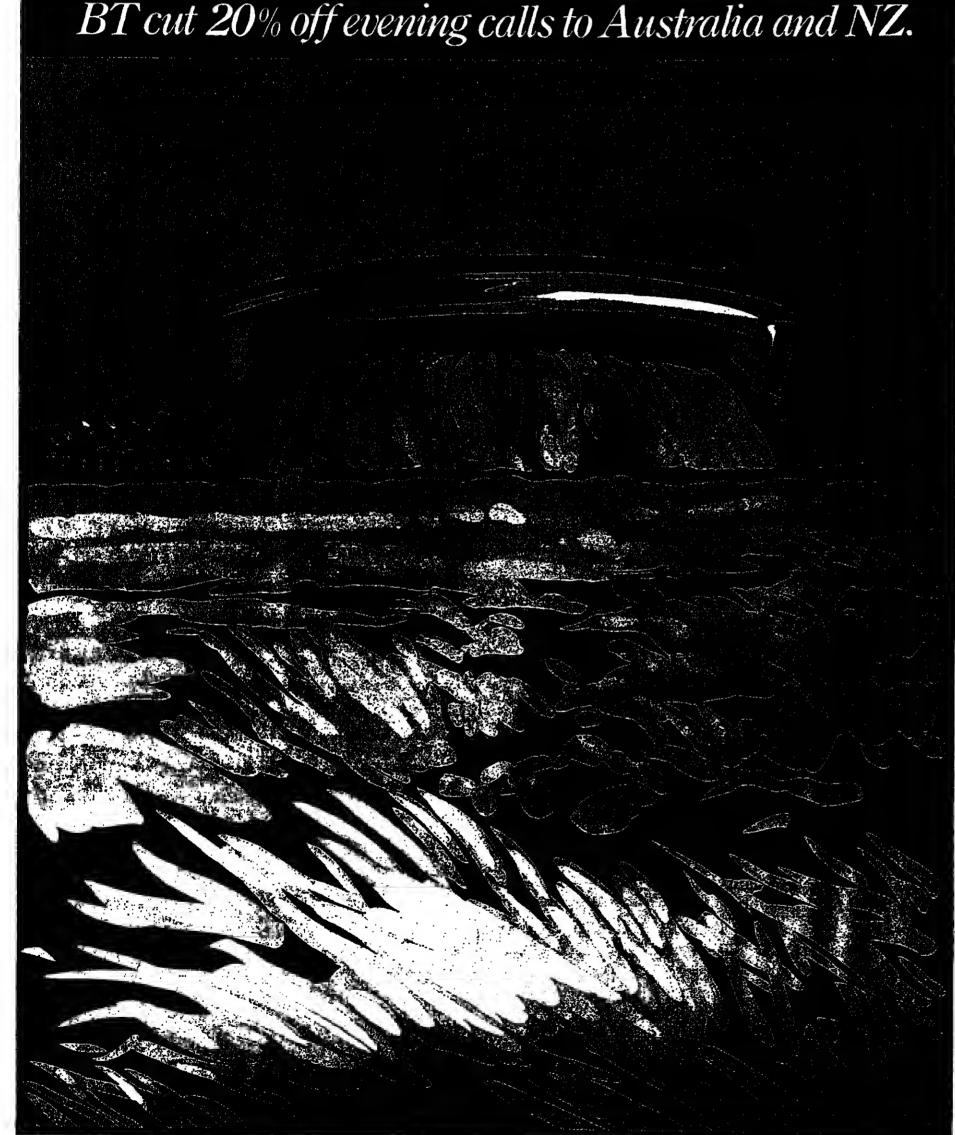
celerated paper cohesion lish, for instance. As Foreign Sec-retary, Mr Cook would have civil servants to handle all of this for him, but they will not be around until next year. Until then, he needs a point man.

Sir Michael speaks the lingo He eased his way around all of the difficult questions at the press conference, disarming the tricky ones with obscure references to the Own Resources ceiling and qualified majority voting. And there is plenty of substance there as well. When he was in Brussels, he met commissioners, diplomats and Jim Cloos, the chef de cubinet to Commission President Jacques Santer. This is a serious operation.

There is a second virtue in Sir Michael's appointment, beyond his evident competence. He represents continuity, the idea that foreign policy will (in many re-spects) be maintained on the same trum lines laid down by the present government. Sir Michael worked in the Foreign Office under alternating Labour and Conservative governments, discussing Labour's planned renegotiation of entry, the British referendum, Margaret Thatcher's arrival and the handbagging sessions which culminated in the British budget rebate. Jim Callaghan, Tony Crosland, David Owen, Lord Carrington, Francis Pym, Geoffrey Howe -Mr Cook would just be another on the list of Foreign Scoretaries whom he had served.

But there is also an element of change flagged by Sir Michael's appointment, Labour wants to suggest both that it will be more positive (Mr Cook's "fresh start") but also no pushover (it was Sir Michael who won the budget rebate, after all).

What this exercise is about is signalling to the rest of the world that Mr Cook is ready to get his feet under the desk, reasser British influence where it matters and use the sharpest people to do it. It is a case of New Labour, Old Diplomacy. It is going down well in Europe; and should Mr Cook ever occupy those rather grand office in spectacularly complicated deal King Charles Street, it will involving what were called ac-

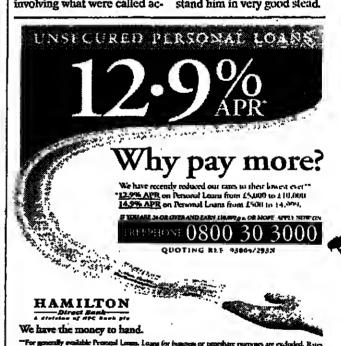


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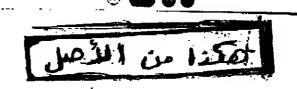
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Chirac tour aims to win Middle East role

Mary Dejevsky

France's inveterate diplomatic traveller, President Jacques Chirac, sets out today on a week-long mission to try to eosure a place for France at the top table of Middle East diplomacy. It is his second trip to the region since be took office, and one of the longest foreign tours he has undertaken. It is also seen by French diplomats as one of the most difficult. The complexities of the tour,

which will take him from Syria to Egypt, via Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon, were underlined less than 48 hours before he set off by an announcement that the foreign minister. Hervé de Charette, would not be accompanying him on the Israeli leg of the journey. Israel had objected to plans for him to visit Orient House, the Palestinian repreentation, in East Jerusalem.

It is a policy agreed in the Eu-ropean Union that EU foreign ninisters visiting Israeli official in Jerusalem should also visit Orient House – signifying that they regard the question of ju-risdiction in Jerusalem as open. This Israel does not accept. Mr Chirac will now be accompanied to Jerusalem by Hervé Gaymard, the health minister, who indpan HQ in Hebron, white, in Taba, talks resume over the deadlock on Israell troop redeployment Photograph: Reuter I will go to Orient House.

France also appears to have made some late modifications to its ambitions for Mr Chirac's tour, which was planned several months ago, as a highlight of his diary. Initially, it seems, there were hopes for some sort of diplomatic coup that could break the current Isracli-Palestinian stalemate. The French news agency, AFP, which receives separate, official, briefings on such matters, reported earlier this week, for instance, that France intended to "play a role in relaunching the peaceprocess, despite the reservations of the Americans and Israelis".

The following day, the for-mulation was that France intended to try to "support" the peace process. And by yester-day it seemed that any thoughts of influencing the peace process at all were being buried. In the pre-visit briefing, the Elysée spokesman said that Mr Chirac would go "not as mediator, but with a message of peace" - the inference being that it might not be reciprocated.

As if to underline this, the Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, was quoted in several French reports as saying "the participation of a third partner [in the peace process] can only complicate things". During a visit to Paris last month, he made no secret of his view that French policy favoured the Arabs.



Chirac: Wants to restore French influence in region

Officials in France's Gaullist administration deny this. They do, however, believe France's historical ties with the Arah world give it an advantage in Middle Eastern diplomacy that has not been sufficiently exploited. They blame France's former president, François Mitterrand, for undermining this by leaning towards Israel.

Mr Chirac bas tried hard to restore France's special position in the Arab world. He has personally visited Lebanon, Egypt and the Gulf, and recently dissociated France from the US bombing of Iraq. The public dispute with Israel over Mr de Charette's visit to Jerusalem will hardly harm him in Arab eyes.

with the Arabs to establish a French role in the Middle East peace process. During the last but one Israeli-Arab crisis, Mr Chirae annoyed the Americans by dispatching Mr de Ch: wtte to track the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, around the Middle East, and was delighted when he returned with a place for France at the ensuing talks.

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That achievement, however, was almost completely undone by the election of Benjamin Netanyahu in April, the subsequent stalling of the peace process and the restoration of the US monopoly on what remained of it.

One point Mr Chirae intends to make during his tour, is that Europe should have a seat at the diplomatic table, if only because it is footing 80 per cent of the hill for Palestinian aid. Mr Chirae's apparent belief that it is he that who should do the representing, however, may not go down well in London and Bonn, which both sup-port the US role, or in Dublin, which holds the EU presidency. Irish officials said vesterday that Mr Chirac's trip was "purely hilateral". US officials were guarded, saying Mr Chirac's trip had been planned for a long time and that "everyone's suggestions" nn the Middle East

furdish rivals ttle near Irbil

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Irbil ish factions battled oo thronts around this oorth agi city yesterday, and tigi-hacked Kurdish Dem Party (KDP) said it had rated a town lost earlier in ek to its rival. The backed Patriot-

ic U Kurdistan (PUK) dispure claim, but conjaq, as south-east of Irbil. Irbil 10 quiet, as residents went ing after hiding in

Titing went on after Unit 45 officials voiced constout the reported otra f Kurdish areas by Sad ussem's forces would be mistake".

san ter capturing Sulay-ma the second largest Kurty, from the KDP on Sur The PUK halted its



east, south-east and oorth-east of the city, close to the Iranian wait the PUK to retake the week-long counter-off gainst the KDP. border. There was also fighting near Diyanah, about 130km (80 miles) oortheast of Irbil; and east of Rawanduz in Iran. Iraq, Iran, the US and Turkey

have all called on the Kurdish nor inovement of Iraqi factions to stop fighting, and have offered mediation. The US Assistant Secretary of State; Robert Pelletreau, plans to travel to the region this week-IK moved into Kuy- end to meet Kurdish leaders: Although there is no evi-

dence that Iraqi troops bave moved to interfere in the recent fighting, the PUK may have haltcrufficusive about 20 miles ed its advance outside Irbil to avoid a possible confrontation with President Saddam's army.

WA report o open can d worms

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ave a dreading ever TW-ight 800 weot breamths ago looks like to be nounced within the ext freeks.

Festigs of the crash whick the on July 17 when the manual of soon after

the time oded soon after take if i New York are closed ording that the disaster as ed by mechanical

failure ra thao a bomh.

If the sis confirmed as mechanications are extremely ring. There are more than Boeing 747s, and moun 700 of them are and moun 700 of them are early very such as the ooc involvedne TWA disaster. While tinding of a bomb would hed to the usual requests setter security at airports prospect of a me-chanicalt having caused the discusses the possibility of lawle changes being made te world's "work-horse riskies".

lave are also not found of for the loss of the Peruviveing 757 which pinnges the sea earlier this monthing all 70 people

Thronths after the New aboard York der, and with no dement about a bomb,

the likelihood of a terrorist at-tack having caused the accident

It took investigators only a few days after the 1988 Lockerbie to decide that a bomb was the cause, because traces of chemicals that could only have come from a bomb were found. While the job of the investiga-tors of the TWA crash was made more difficult because all the debris were in the sea, more then 90 per cent of the plane has now been recovered and there is oo evidence of a

The investigators have pinpointed a centre fuel tank on one of the wings as the site of the explosion which destroyed the plane and, despite 80 per cent of the tank baving been recovered, no trace of an explosive device has been found. In fact, metallurgical tests are much more suggestive of a mechanical failure than a bomb.

According to a report in yes-terday's Washingtoo Post, in-vestigators say that tests have shown that parts of the fuel tank were blown outward, suggesting the hlast occurred inside it. And they have found no sign of any metal pushed in towards the tank which would be the case if a bomb bad been hidden nearby in the cabin. The Past reports.
"Safety investigators say a mechanical malfunction now seems a more likely explanation fur why Flight 800 went down





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Dole faces disappointment as he gambles on the Golden State

Rupert Cornwell

Here, in a terraced garden shaded by palms and perfumed by roses, Bob Dole's mentor lies at peace at last. Richard Nixon's grave is just a few feet from the white-painted house which his father built with his own hands in 1912, and where the 37th president was born a year later. Today it is part of the Nixon Library and Museum. There, visitors may re-live that extra-ordinary career, and listen to the gravelly Nixon voice expound-

ing his political philosophy.

In his way, Mr Dole revered
Nixon. At the funeral here on
27 April 1994, he wept as he delivered a eulogy remembering the greatest statesman of the second half of the 20th century". The two men were similar. both of humble origin, both overcame adversity. And right now in his difficult, perhaps already doomed quest for the White House, Mr Dole seems to be acting on one of the mas-ter's dicta, echoing forth from an old film clip: "If you risk nothing, you will lose nothing. But if you risk nothing you will win nothing either." win nothing either.

If he is to win the presidency, Mr Dole must carry California. To do that, he must sweep Orange County and its communities like Yorba Linda. Democrats point to the place as home of some of the worst products of America - among hem Nixon, John Wayne and Disneyland. For Republicans, however, Orange County is the ultimate stronghold, a seedbed of votes and conservative values first cultivated by Nixon, expanded by Ronald Reagan, only to be partly squandered by George Bush.

Like Orange County and all of southern California, Yorba Linda has changed utterly this century. Only 200 people lived there when Frank Nixon paid just over \$2,000 (£1,300) for nine acres of land, in the dream of growing a citrus orchard. The



California dreaming: Bob Dole (upper left) talks with the audience after his speech at Riverside

ter. Today the community is home to 50,000, a suburban somewhere within the presihe told an enthusiastic crowd at

dential library complex a clock Riverside, the day after his chimes "God Bless America". combative performance in the second presidential debate on It could be a summons to the "silent majority" Richard Noron once so skilfully identified, in. Wednesday. Riverside, 50 miles east of Los Angeles, is the sort Orange County and beyond.

Now as he seeks to rouse of swing community Mr Dole must carry. At that moment too those same troops. Mr Dole is his wife Elizabeth was spreading the word in North Califortaking his mentor's advice. "If nia, while a heavy Dole you thought I was tough last

the airwaves. After weeks of wavering. Dole is gambling all on the Golden State.

As of now he is still well behind - by 10 points in one poll, by 12 in another. If Bill Clinton loses votes to the consumer rights advocate, Ralph Nader, who is on the ballot as a Green Party candidate, Mr Dole will lose at least as many to Ross Perot. But California alone repvotes, a fifth of the Zouired to win. So Californis. Unfortunately horr, not

even Orange Countyife. As Mr Dole was in Rive. Mr Clinton was addressin enthusiastic rally of 10,4eople in Santa Ana. The t poll shows the Presiderading among all voters in thesty by 43 to 41 per cent, anda few days before 20 promi state verc supporting Mr On.

The reason, they ened, was Mr Dole's opport to abortion rights and guard, and his hostility to strawironmental controls. Trance may thrill Republican conhere. Mr Dole is seestiff and uninspiring. A free-plained: "He just isn aifornia sort of guy." The of thumb is that a victorRepublican candidate merry Orange County by 100 votes to offset the entied Democratic majoriticithe San Francisco Bay arespos Angeles. On presentis, Mr Dole will be forturation by a tenth of that.

Such doubts of could dot disturb the faithful. is, in very conservative," ss Naia Klugman, president the irba Linda Republicatom's association. "I'm alveryptimistic. A hig surpr is cn-

Pinned on the ws thinvitation to the Cania lepublican party's le 196 victory rally on 5 Neber Jut a better indication ie mod may have been a here in the conservative Ora: Comty Register, lamentin Delc's straying from the path: "What party does Dole belong to anyway?"h is his problem even amcepublicans - too consers for the moderates, too moe for the

But Mr Dole cae heart from another of I's principles. Never quitformer president declared: White. House staff after hounced his resignation. "Gress only. comes when you some knocks and disapprents." Knocks and disagments probably await Dolc,

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France rings Corsican the telephone changes

France's phone company introduced new 10-digit numbers last night. At 11pm, the country was adding two digits to every number. expanding its capacity by hundreds of millions of lines for an explosion of modems, faxes and cell phones in the coming years. The move cost state-owned France Telecom Fr5hn (£65m). AP - Paris

Belgian king speaks out

King Albert II of Belgium called for "a profound change in our country" after countless errors in a child murder and porn investigation created a public outrage. He spoke against a backdrop of spontaneous protests as tens of thousands turned out for a fifth day running to demand a clean-up of a justice system. AP – Brussels

Briton on rape charge

A 45-year-old Briton pleaded innocent to charges he raped the 11-year-old daughter of his Filipino girlfriend. Albert Wilson of Kent is alleged to have raped the girl at home while the mother was out shopping. T AP - Marrila



group threat to Juppé

Utopia of brilliant green lawns,

courtesy of the miracles of

modern irrigation.
But for all its creature com-

forts, Orange County thinks of

itself as ordinary heartland

USA. It believes in patriotism

and the gritty, old fashioned work ethic of people like

A Corsican nationalist organisation that has admitted responsibility for planting bombs in mainland France over the past two weeks has threatened the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, personally. In a letter sent to French state television, the FLNC (historic wing), spoke of "a response of an unsuspected magnitude" if Mr Juppé made "any attempt to eliminate the group physically. The letter made clear that the move was a response to a decision to institute proceedings against members of the FLNC. Mary Dejevsky - Paris

Price on Nazi camp doctor

Prosecutors offered a 250,000 mark (£120,000) reward for a former SS doctor suspected of murdering hundreds of Jews at Mauthausen concentration camp in 1941. Fugitive Aribert Heim, 82, is suspected of using injections to the heart to murder Jewish inmates while he was a doctor at the camp in Austria. AP - Stuttgart

Taiwan power protest

Anti-nuclear protesters hurled petrol bombs barricades after parliament voted to restore funding for Taiwan's controversial fourth nuclear power station. Reuter -

Fur flies in Australia

Australian animal rights groups were outraged at a plan by legislator Richard Evans to free the country of cats by 2020, to save wildlife. He said scientists should introduce a disease to kill wild cats and pet cats should be neutered. AP - Canberra



We'll go on listening even when you can't go on talking.

Equally, callers who do start me unable to go on - many hang up hal through a conversation, or simply go (

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The Samaritans. We go through

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the longweekend

This week, crisp blue, almost-summer weather began to give way to the foul, wet blasts of nearlywinter. Compared to only a few weeks ago, much of the coast seems suddenly deserted, eerily beautiful, reclaimed by dog-walkers and seabirds. For those outdoor types prepared to search out the smell and colour of rural autumn, we bring news of good walking in deepest Shropshire. And for shuddering urbanites there's a feast of Bridget Jones.

interview



John Walsh meets Jeremy Clarkson

Cars, camshafts and the chaplain's daughter. TV's Mr Motoring drives and tells page 3

Kerber's week 2 Heavenly + Earthly . . . 2 Weather

arts & books



At last ... complete and unexpurgated

Exclusive excerpts from the new book based on the diaries of Bridget page 4 Jones

Theatre review 6 Shelf life6 TV & radio reviews 7

travel



Washington: the political theme park

US Capital comes alive only every fourth year when gripped by election page 9 fever

money



Are you losing out on your mortgage?

Part two of our personal finance investigation into the way we invest our page 24 cash

| | Property . | | | | | .2 |
|---|------------|--|--|--|--|----|
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| • | Crossword | | | | | .3 |

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Lloyds

Whatever happened to Salmonella enteritidis?

The moment: On a freezing cold December Saturday, an ITN news team caught up with Edwina Currie. Against a backdrop of a council estate in Chellaston, near Derby, she declared: "Most of the egg production in this country, sadly, is now infected with salmonella."

The background: Ms Currie was the junior health minister, hated by many for her ambition (and her refusal to keep it hidden) and blunt way with words – such as that Northerners died of "crisps and ignorance", and that cervical cancer was the result of being "far too sexually active – nuns don't get it." Somehow, though, she always survived. In the summer, a report landed on her desk about a problem with hens. In November, a hospital decided not to provide raw eggs to patients. Richard Lacey was a microbiologist working at Leeds University who



had grown interested in food quality. Few beyond his university had heard of him, though. Salmonella enteriditis was just what it had been for millions of years — a bacterium which lived on uncooked food and thrived in the human gut, given half a chance, with symptoms ranging from diarrhoea to death,

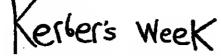
The effect: Though Ms Currie was able to withstand the farm lobby for a week, she couldn't withstand the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as well. Two weeks after her statement, she resigned, leaving the government with the problem of what to do with £10m of unsold eggs which were effectively left all over its collectively responsible face. For Ms Currie was right: eggs were a prime suspect in a widespread outhreak of salmonella, although the Egg Industry Council said it was implicated in only 26 of 36,000 reported cases of food poisoning.

Professor Lacey achieved widespread media visibility as a commentator on salmonella (which declined to be interviewed) and its drastic effects, which can include death. Salmonella

Moments of subsequence: Ms Currie has never returned to the government benches, but instead has turned her hand to annoying party colleagues in other ways, such as heing pro-European and writing sex 'n' Select Committee novels about fictional goings-on in the Commons – detailing activities that The Sun would call "steamy" but MPs would think too normal.

Professor Lacey warned against the dangers of "cook-chill" supermarket foods, and how they could not kill hacteria; and that microwaving could cause the production of dangerous chemicals on the surface of foods. Most recently, he has warned of a coming epidemic of CJD among Britons which he says will have been caused by eating BSE-infected food products. Salmonella enteriditis, even without a safe political seat, a book agent or university tenure, has proved to be a similarly doughty survivor. It still kills about 50 people a year: in September, a 49-year-old mother died after three weeks of painful illness, caused by licking a cake mix she had made which contained raw egg. Her husband and two sons ate the cake and lived.

Charles Arthur



AT HOME WITH PAULA AND MICHAEL:







heavenly

Sleaze written in the stars

The Roman naturalist Pliny described eclipses as "the most marvellous and indeed portentous occurrence in the whole of our observation of nature". Even a few centuries ago, in the wake of last Saturday's eclipse we would all have spent this week scanning the headlines for signs of catastrophe. As to who would reap the particular whirlwind, eclipses have a long tradition of creating prohlems for rulers. That this solar eclipse occurred in the 30-degree portion of the sky assigned to Libra, the sign opposing John Major's sun in Aries, would have undoubtedly been remarked upon.

The Prime Minister's opponents uniting in accusations of sleaze would be put down to the effects of sun and moon conjoined in his opposite sign. The possibility of Neil Hamilton's resignation cutting Major's razor thin majority even



thinner, plus Speaker Boothroyd's forceful interventions and ex-whip David Willett's scandalous ones, would not be viewed as just another chapter in an ongoing sorry saga. Instead this week's events would be seen as certain harhingers of Government doom.

All this was brought to mind by my participation in a programme on eclipses on Radio 4 last Saturday. The other commentators were a scientist and a psychologist. The producer, being more accustomed to television, told me I was included as the "illustration", which could perhaps be translated as the comic relief since the

programme was Science Now.
During times of Science Then, the
English were seen as susceptible to
prodigies of all kinds.

Thomas Sprat, in his 1667 History of the Royal Society, complained, "This wild amazing of men's minds, with Prodigies and conceits of Providences ... is a vanity to which the English seem to have been always subject above others. There is scarce any Modern Historian that relates our Foreign Wars, but he has this Objection against the disposition of our Countymen, that they used to order their affairs of the greatest importance according to some obscure Omens or predictions that passed amongst them." Presumably the Welsh and Scots

were considered more enlightened.
A solar eclipse for 29 March
1652 – Black Monday – seemed
calculated to drive all Britons into
a frenzy. Among the dire
predictions were darkness, sudden
death and the end of monarchy. At
Dalkeith the poor threw away their
possessions, while in London
anyone rich enough loaded their
coaches and fled. The diarist John
Evelyn noted that the alarm was so
great "hardly any would work,"

none stir out of their houses, so ridiculously were they abused by knavish and ignorant stargazers".

The Council of State issued a pamphlet insisting that eclipses were natural events and could have no political effects. When the day dawned fine and clear and nothing terrible ensued, astrologers – like acolytes of any revealed religion – were not short of excuses. For the omen tradition of eclipses looked to the duration as well as the location of the eclipse for its time-frame of prediction. Last week's eclipse lasted for three hours, representing three years during which we will feel its effects.

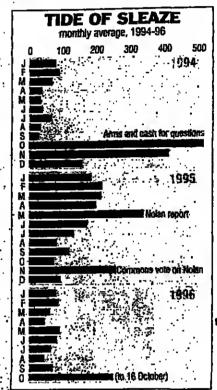
When the sun is eclipsed, so is the ruler's power. Perhaps Conservative Central Office might issue a pamphlet assuring us all is well, although Major may vet remain resilient since this eclipse was merely partial. The coming total eclipse over Cornwall in 1999 could prove more intractable. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle highlights more than one ruler, including the King of Kent, who met his end during the same year as an eclipse. Were I the King of Cornwall, I should look to my future.

Ann Geneva

In addition

clarksort

A tide of sleaze* is engulting the nation this month. Just as it did in October 1994 and in November 1995. The monthly totals of appearances of the word "sleaze" in our newspaper database (covering a wide selection of national dailies and Sundays) since the beginning of 1994 reveals both the seasonal nature of sleaze and the high prospects of a record crop this autumn.



As the table shows, sleaze was acceptably contained until the tidal wave of arms-for-Iraq and cash-for-questions stories in late 1994. The level remained high, peaking again with the publication of the Nolan Report (May 1995) and the Commons debate on Nolan (November 1995).

After Nolan our appetite for sleaze appeared satiated and the figures for the early months of 1996 give the impression of a general sleaze moratorium. Indeed, the total number of sleaze appearances in the first nine months of the year was 63 per cent down on the same period in 1995. This month, however, the cease-sleaze has come to an end. With 249 instances in the first 16 days of October, it will take only one more major scandal to surpass the high sleaze mark of October 1994.

*Sleaze, a back formation from the far older sleazy, with a first citation date in the OED of 1967. Sleazy dates back to 1670 in the form Sleazie or Slessy, meaning inferior fabric from Silesia. The meaning generalised from shabby cloth to shabby standards in general.

William Hartston

earthly An idyll fit for idiots

There is a country we all know, but few have visited. It shares the same space as America, but in a parallel universe. It's called TV-Movieland. You might want to live there. Everyone who does, after all, has a front drive, an en saue bathroom and separate phone lines for teenagers. It's a consumer utopia, where success also means understanding.

You know TV-Movieland,

You know TV-Movieland,
You've seen the hrochures. It's the
place where moms run up porch
steps hugging brown paper
shopping hags from the tops of
which plumes of celery protrude.
Where each unmarried woman has
a media career and a warehouse
flat with exposed girders and giant
abstract oils on the staircase. There
are no bungalows here, no
overflowing dustbins and no leaves
on the line. It's where romantic
dinners consist of spaghetti and
women like salad.

This is the country where



everyone has a disabled friend, where minority groups are the bringers of wisdom. Old people, Chinese junk-shop owners, people who mend cars, women who pour the coffee in diners: wherever yon turn, there's someone waiting to offer advice or baby-sit. This is the place where parents apologise when they're in the wrong and adolescents say things like, "I'm only upset because we never seem to spend enough time together". Sounds great, doesn't it? Well,

Sounds great, doesn't it? Well, don't be fooled. You may long for kitchen appliances that work, secretaries who type up annual reports overnight and a verandah with a swing seat, but these things come at a price. Beneath this

happy, ordered surface lies a wriggling, slimy can of worms. Try this: go to a park. That dad-

and-child combo by the climbing frames are guaranteed to be exchanging the following line: "You'll love Marcia. And now we're getting married we can be a family again. Each suburban celebration is disrupted when a rake-thin, lycra-clad lush falls off her spike heels while carrying a cake. Gay men only exist to stumble in on violent burglars. Representatives of religious groups Catholic priests, in which case they have frank conversations about sex while strolling on docksides. Even the animals have alarming habits: there's never a dog that doesn't whine and wag its tail, never a horse that doesn't whinny when it appears. As for cats, they have only one function: to jump, yowling, out of dark places and make lone

females scream.

This, you see, is the murder capital of the world. Business deals in Jakartan penthouses are a doddle in comparison. No one here lies around watching soaps and thinking about vacuuming. It is a prerequisite of citizenship that you agree to be raped/slashed/murdered/mown down by a drunk

parents/spouse/children
raped/slashed/murdered. Dawn
hreaks to the sound of women
saying "I woke up in a panic
because I'd forgotten to pack his
lunch, and then I remembered..."
As with most countries, there
are specific rules for women. The
Lonely Planet Guide keeps
forgetting to include them, but
they must be strictly observed.

driver, or find your

Never shoot with your eyes open. If you shoot with your eyes open, you'll miss. Don't run into the street when there's a windowless attic to hide in. And - this is most important - only check out latenight noises harefoot, in a nightie, without turning on the lights.

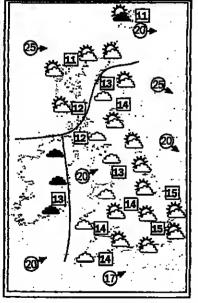
Sounds bad, I know, but if you follow a few basic rules, you'll not only survive, you'll he a better person. Firstly: never trust a man

with a moustache. Always trust men with beards. Unless, that is, you're in woodland and they're wearing a plaid shirt. If your husband's dead, avoid your hest friend. If your husband and best friend are staining the deep-pile, don't stand at the top of a cliff with the investigating cop. Stick with these rules, and you'll do fine.

Have a nice trip.

Serena Mackesy

weekend weather



General Situation and 5-Day Outlook: A developing depression will move northeast towards Iceland with fronts moving east across the British Isles.

Today. Scotland will get a mix of sunshine and showers with a brisk westerly wind. Most of the showers are going to be to the north, and over the islands, but rain will spread into the southwest. Nurthern Ireland is going to get some rain and a freshening southwest wind after a bright start. The whote of England and Wales will get some sunshine with a moderate westerly hreeze. There are, though, going to be a few light showers dotted about while cloudier weather and rain spreads from the west.

Sunday will see rain and gusty winds in the north, hut with showers to come. The south will be hrighter and milder, hut with rain spreading from the west. Much of the UK will see sunshine and showers on Monday with a gusty westerly wind, but there will be rain to the south. The rain will work its way north during Tuesday along with strengthening southwest winds. Wednesday should then see the rain clearing to sunshine and showers with gusty winds.

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Something worth talking about.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

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Bit British Midland The Airline for Europe

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy, l,fair, tg,fog.

In the stands and antimensity.

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy, l,fair, tg,fog.

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AMSTERDAM

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change (A22/B2235) and J10 Wisley interchange (A3), roadworks contraflow. S0mph speed timit will cause peak time delays in both directions.

A38 Comwall Trethawie near Liskeard. Contraflow will cause long delays.

A1 Durham. Between A1 (M) J61 Bowburn (A177 /A888/B6261 Durham Services) and A1 (M) J60 Sedgefield (A669 Bradbury), contraflow with two lanes southbound and one lane northbound. Expect delays.

Out and about with AA Roadwatch out 0338 401 for the latest loof and national halfe near. Source: the Automobile Association. Cells theread at 45p per miniticines nate) 50p per min (all other trues) inc VAI.

Road: MS Glasgow J11 Queenslie (B765

Stepps Road interchange) major road-

works, closed westbound. Contraflow

eastbound. Expect serious delays.
M25 Surrey between 16 Godstone inter-

Association, Caula Charged at 40d per man ichean nate 50p per min (all other twies) inc VAI.

Air Quality

Yesterday's Readings
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London Good Good Good Sengland Good Good Good C England Good Good N England Good Good Good N Ireland Good Good Good N Ireland Good Good Good Sengland Good Good Sengland Good Good N England Good Good Good N England Good Good Sengland Good Good N England Good Good Scotland Good Good N England Good Good N England Good Good N England Good Good Good N Ireland Good Good Good Good N Ireland Good Good Good N Ireland Good Good Good

Position of Saturn relative to the moon
23rd October

MOON

MOON

SATURN

Anyone up and around in the small hours of Mon
her and a nucteor shows known as the Eta Aquaride

day or Tuesday morning next week could spot meteors from the Orionid shower. At its peak; this regular annual shower can produce a shooting star every two or three minutes. Each hlazing trail in our atmosphere marks the final demise of a dust fragment that dropped off Halley's Comet long ago. Accumulated streams of dust chase this most famous of comets as it takes its extended course round the Sun.

Twice a year, Earth ploughs through the trail of interplanetary debris, giving us the Orionids in late Octo-

her and a meteor shower known as the Eta Aquaridsa in early May.

Shower meteors seem to

shower meteors seem to come from one particular point in the sky. The constellation in which this point lies gives the shower its name. Apart from such regular showers, miscellaneous bits and pieces from space can enter the atmosphere at any time, creating a hrief, fiery trail in the sky. Sometimes, they are big enough to survive the ordeal and land on Earth as meteorites.

Also this week, look for the planet Saturn, a hright object near the almost full Moun on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

Sun rises 7:31am Moon rises 2:15pm New Moon Octobe Sun rises 5:58pm Moon sets 11:43pm 25



حكذا من الأصل

المكذا من الأصل



John Walsh meets... **Jeremy** Clarkson

utside Charibury Station, Jeremy Clarkson is waiting in a classic pose: leaning against an auto-mobile. arms folded, one hand occasionally raising a cigarette to his lips, the long vertical of his 6ft 5in frame hisecting the gleaming horizontal of the car. man and machine, you see, in sacred conjunction. It's the look Bruce Springsteen chose for the cover of his Tunnel of Love album, complete with cowboy hat and bootlace tie. Mr Clarkson has not selected either accessory today, but both the cow-boy hat and the folded arms can be found on the cover of Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld, a handsome book published to tie in with last year's 12-part dasb round a dozen countries that topped BBC2's ratings.

SLEAZE

The only trouble is that the car against which be is leaning is a Nissan Primera - and long-standing fans of Top Gear's corkscrew-barneted Wild Man will know that Nissan drivers are one of Clarkson's many bêtes noirs. ("They can't park, don't understand rouodabouts and are not averse, once in a while, to driving the wrong way down a motorway"). A man of strong but mysterious opinions, he also nurses a chronic dislike of foreigners (especially the Welsh and the Swiss), Colin Welland, the World Bank, travelling salesmen (especially of photocopiers), homo-xuals, political correctness and his own feet. But as we career through the Oxfordshire lanes, it becomes clear that the Nissan is only oo loan, for purposes of review, which Mr Clarkson duly supplies: "The most ordinary, depressingly dull corporate junk, although actually there's an. inherent niceness about its steering and its responses".

Sitting in the driver's seat, he is a oulky, looming presence, that huge pink slab of a head surmounted by a tangle of curis, which seem to be associated with it without actually growing from it, like lichen on a boulder. It's very familiar, because of Mr Clarkson's extraordinary hroadcast style. His Top Gear performance is full of in-your-lens gurning and vast facial close-ups, whispered confidences and over-theshoulder chat, beery puns and breezy one-liners: "So the question is," he summed up last Thursday's critique of the new Ford Ka, "if you drive this. will people want to have your babies, or will they laugh m your face?"

Sex and cars have been mentioned in the same breath ever since the Model-T Ford acquired adjustable seating, but in Clarkson they sometimes seem interchangeable. His appreciation of cars goes beyond horsepower, big ends and rocker panels, into darker realms of attraction and desire. Viz comic featured Mr Clarkson performing sex with a "Ferrari Testosterossa" ("Yeah, take that you sexy bitch, it's hard..."). His image bas gradually coarseoed, over his seven years with Top Gear, from an eothusiastic impresario of speeding chrome to the shambolic xenophobic, drinking 'n' smoking figure of Super-Lad.

At the Clarkson home - a Georgian mansion once owned by David Sainsbury – we parked beside his heloved Jaguar. I blinked at the sight of the rest of the Clarksoo stable an Austin Maestro, a Citroen Passat - in a corner. "One is the cleaner's, the other's the nanny's" said Jeremy. "Doo't jump to conclusions." Clarkson moved here last year with his dark and pretty wife Francie (who doubles as his manager) and their children Emily (two) and Finlo (seven months; the name is Manx, like Francie), though they still return to their Fulham flat at the smallest pretext. In their Provençal kitchen, Jeremy makes coffee while Francie fields phone calls from Birmingham, the site of this week's Motor Show. Everyone from the City Council to the Evening Past is up in arms about Jeremy's recent description of the nation's second city as "a rugby team's bath after they have let the water out - i.e. a circle of scum with nothing at the centre. Did he mind upsetting people?

Oh, of course. Sometimes you think, Oh dear. I've burt someone and that's awful. But then you have a drink and forget about it." He is looking forward to Birmingham, his interest in the Motor Show undinmed by familiarity. "I love the glitz and glamour of it. You must remember that after arms and legitimate drugs, the motor industry is the third biggest in the world and

Man of the gear



when it fluffs up its feathers and puts on a show it can look... pretty good." The days of draping babes across bonnets had gooe, though? "It's not just that. The trade's been very depressed for the past few years, because of all this nonsense about pollution and the need for electric cars. And the motor industry, instead of flexing its enormous muscles and fighting back, has kowtowed and made these tedious little cars. But they've pretty well gone away, and it's all back to power and fun and games, and pouting girls..."

Despite his Little Englandism

(the Motorworld programme amounted to a dozen flights of cultural stereotyping, with some cars attached) he is slavishly devoted to Italian cars, especially Ferraris; his pride and joy is a P-reg Ferrari 355 m screaming scarlet, which he went so far as to buy at list price. Though nervous about people knowing he's got one, be proudly shows off its smooth lines and blood-and-cream interior to appreciative strangers. When, later, his wife offered me a lift in it, his face became all concern; he looked a far cry from the char who disparages the environmental lobby, suggests, on-air, the the speed limit should be 140 mph and radiates cheeky don't-give-a-shit amorality. Talking to him about cars is a cari-

ous experience. Starting from a position of ignorance - I'm the kind of driver who assumes "overhead camshafts" are things you have to duck to avoid when leaving the passenger seat - I was prepared to be blinded by the automative equivalent of a wine snob. Not a bit of it. Clarkson off-camera is the same as on, reducing complicated machines to simple metaphorical propositions. Thus he likes Jaguars because "people say there's not much space in there, that you're hemmed in, but I think it makes you feel very cosy and safe" Like being in a cockpit? "No, more like being in a little study with a wood-burning stove. There should be a few books on the walls...".

The other thing he does is wax

of a car as if to suggest, by synechwhole. He will, for instance, bang on for ages about the Ferrari's gear lever. "It's a beautiful piece of sculpture. 'Course the Italians have an eye for making things beautiful, rather than strictly functional... Come off it. Jeremy, I said, there's a gear lever in my Rover which is gorgeous, too, if we're going to.

hyper-precise about some tiny detail majority of people who buy cars care corridors. And that's why I took this a gnat's what is under the bonnet. doche, the wondrousness of the Just so long as, when they pull out to overtake a tractor, they'll go faster than the tractor."

Did he really not know how an engine works? "I really doo't. I've tried over the years to understand the basics of internal combustion how the spark plug has a spark and ignites the fuel mixture and there's this piston somehow turns this rod writhe like art critics about it, a which turns the gear lever which

conscious effort to be Jack the Lad, to drink and smoke, so that way you could stand out." He considered the glowing tip of his Marlboro Red. "It was the best decision of my life. Smoking is just fantastic. I love it". Reptoo, though - dido't that make him more of a Posh Git than a Boy Racer? He bridled. "Well, I

did get expelled." What for? "It was

a whole series of misdemeanours,

best summed up by the headmaster

"Quentin Willson told me when he was 17 he was stripping down a Ford Anglia on his parents' kitchen table. I said, 'Quentin, when I was 17, I was getting laid"

said Clarkson crushingly. "Or wood vencer, which is the same thing. The Ferrari gear lever is a perfect aluminium ball. They use a diamond cutter to carve the map of the gears. It's something you could take out of the car and Stephen Bayley would have it in the Design Museum. Now take the petrol filler cap on the Fiat Coupé...'

It seemed odd that he oever discussed the minutiae of car technology, the anoraky world of torque ratios and the like. This is because be hasn't a clue what they mean. "Yeah, people are always keen to talk about that stuff, particularly the Germans. They love the details. They love to get you down and say, Look at our new track rod end. Have you ever seen anything like it?' And I say, sorry, I don't think it's very

lovely fat, solid piece of - "Plastic," makes the car move ... " Had he when he said. 'If you'd come up to oever stood in a garage wheo me on the first day and punched me young, like Geoeral Colin Powell in the face, I'd have expelled you apparently did, surrounded by wires instantly. And if you'd come up and and widgets, taking a Chevvy to gone like this [he gives my arm a light pieces? Good God, no. Queotin poke], I'd have been mildly irritated. Willson, my co-presenter oo Top Gear, said the other day, when be was 17 he was stripping down a Ford Anglia on his parents' kitcheo table. I said, 'Queotin, when I was

17, I was getting laid'."
Indeed. Mr Clarkson's naughtyboy credentials date back to his arrival at Repton, the Derbyshire public school, at 13. He grew up in Doncaster, where his mother made soft-toy Paddingtoo Bears under license. "I think I must have been a spoilt brat at home, because it was such a shock when I got to school to find that I wasn't king of the hill any more: I was just another 13-year-old important. I don't think the vast fag who was expected to sweep the to become journalists, he joined the

But the thing is, you've been doing that [nasty prod] and that [nastier prod) and that [ditto] for five years. Now get out". But what was the final indignity? Drugs? Guns? Sex?

There was no one big thing. I'd worked my way through the rule book, breaking them one by one, but there was no calamitous momeot when I was caught in flagrante with the chaplain's daughter. Mostly it was not being there. I was more interested in the local girl's school. Sball I do my history prep or shall I go and see Sally Ann?"

Told by a Doncaster neighbour that the only fate of the expelled is

lasted until his oerve broke one day when covering a Ponies and Produce local show. "I had all the Pony Club mothers giving me earache about how 'Well, she shouldo't have been in that class, so she shouldn't have won'. I'd been hearing how somebody cheated with his marrow and someone else's apples came from Sainsbury's and they hadn't grown them at all, and then the Pony Club mothers... That's what made me do it. I picked up my typewriter in the Press tent at the Wyckersley Show and shouted 'Enough!'. I thought, there must be something better than this out in the hig wide world...'

And there was, and it was called cars. Before buying his first car - a Ford Scirocco - Clarkson leafed through the available car magazines, "and they were all, like What Car?, this incredibly tedious line-up of facts and details. I wasn't interested in that. I wanted to know, as I cruise down Doncaster High onds. It can generate 4G in a turn. Street, am I going to look good in this car or not? I didn't give a shit about headroom and boot-sills. And it made me start thinking: I all twisted up...". wonder if you could write about cars in a different way?"

But look, I said, you're 6ft 5in. You're far too tall to drive a Scirocco with its streamlined ceiling. Maybe surrounded by birthday presents if you'd trusted the boring details, you wouldo't have had excruciating neckache for years... "Well, yeah, I was desperately uncomfortable in it. and the clutch cable used to saw through the bulkhead and break but it didn't matter because it was such a lovely car. You'd walk up to it after you'd been shopping, and look at it and go, 'You're magnificent'." We're back in Viz country, it loaded and Men Behaving Badh, and seems. I lack the nerve to ask him if he's ever tried to mate with one of and in order to stay in front you're his high-performance charges, though I remember his telling Qmagazine, on the subject of sexual arousal, "I don't actually swell. There's oo swelling when I climb into a car, unlike if I was, say, climbing into Claudia Schiffer. Driving a Fermight be different. But until then..."

Rotherham Adveniser as a trainee. It rari isn't as good as bedding Kate Moss, but it's oot far off, I imagine." Gosh, what a naughty boy.

Having almost exhausted the

excitement potential of everything on four wheels - he's doing 37 Top Gear programmes this year. Clarksoo is now embarked on a new venture, provisionally entitled Jerenn. Clarkson Unlimited, which he has just started shooting in the States. "The basic premise is, if it rolls, floats, flics, shoots a hig hullet, runs on high explosive or gasoline, then we feature it. It's kind of Beyond the Dodge Viper - that was as exciting as cars get, but not as exciting as motorised transport gets. We'll be doing helicopters, gunships, powerboats... It should be called Big Box Toys." Will he be taking the wheel of them all? "Er, no, I can't fly - though I did go on a powerboat once. The most extraordinary experience. I find it hard to talk about it. I mean it can go from nought to 100 in three sec-You can't see how half an inch of plywood hull in the water can provide enough grip to make your face get

Mr Clarkson is deliriously entertaining company and a straight talker of refreshingly unambiguous views, but he is, of course, a big kid supplied gratis to the Corporation by the car companies. His role is to find an heroic voice for the commuter who drives his purple Mondeo to the supermarket on Saturdays. Was there any distant maturity m sight for the horsepower-loving Super-Lad? "Well there is a temptation it starts out with a Mild Lad, then Laddism catches on and you get you're on the crest of this Lad wave sometimes tempted to go mad and say stupid things. But you have to be aware that there are limits. If someone could provide a direct link

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prit.

8st (bad); chocolate 4 (bad); cigarettes 3 (vg)...

Sunday 15 January

6pm: Completely exhausted by entire day of date-preparation. Being a woman is worse than being a farmer. There is so much harvesting and crop spraying to he done: legs to he waxed underarms shaved, eyebrows plucked, feet pumiced, skin exfoliated and moisturised, spots cleansed, roots dyed, eyclashes tinted, nails filed. cellulite massaged, stomach muscles exercised. The whole performance is so highly funed you only need to neglect it for a few days for the whole thing to go to seed. Sometimes I wonder what I would be like if left to revert to nature - with a full beard and handlehar moustache on each shin, Denis Healey eyebrows, face a graveyard of dead skin cells, spots erupting, long curly fingernails like Struwwelpeter, blind as bat and stupid runt of species as no contact lenses. flahby body flobbering around. 7pm: Cannot believe this has happened. On the way to the bathroom, to complete final farming touches. I noticed the Ansafone light was flashing: Daniel.

"Look. Jones. I'm really sorry. I think I'm going to bave tu give tonight a miss. I've got a presentation at 10 in the morning and a pile of 45 spreadsheets to get through."
Cannot believe it. Am stood up.

Entire waste of whole day's bloody effort and hydro-electric bodygenerated power. However, one must not live one's life through men but must he complete in oneself as a woman of substance. 9pm: Still. he is in top-level job. Maybe he didn't want to ruin first date

with underlying work-panic. 11pm: Humph. He might have bloody well rung again, though. Is probably out with someone thinner. 5am: What's wrong with me? I'm completely alone. Hate Daniel Cleaver. Am going to have nothing more to do with him. Am going to get weighed.

Monday 16 January

9st 2 (from where? why? why?); alcohol units 0; cigarettes 20; calories 1500; positive thoughts 0.

10.30am, nffice: Daniel is still locked in his meeting. Maybe it was a genuine excuse.

1pm: Just saw Daniel leaving for lunch. He has not messaged me or anything. Depressed. Going shopping. 11.50pm: Just had dinner in Harvey Nichols Fifth Flour with Tom, who was obsessing about a pretentioussounding "freelance film maker" called Jeromc. Moaned to him about Daniel, who was in meenings all afternoon and only managed to say, "Hi, Jones, how's the skirt?" at 4.30pm. Tom said not to be paranoid, time, but I could tell he was not concentrating and only wanted to talk

Tuesday 24 January

Heaven-sent day. At 5.30pm, like a gift from God. Daniel appeared, sax himself on the edge of my desk, with his back to Perpetua, took out his diary and murmured. "How are you fixed for Friday?"

about Jerome as suffused with sex-lust.

Friday 27 January 9st 3 (but stuffed with Genoau food):

alcohol units 8: cigarettes 400 (feels like); valories 875, Huh. Had dream date at an intime

little Genuan restaurant near Daniel's "Um ... right. I'll get a taxi," I

blurted awkwardly as we stood in the street afterwards. Then he lightly hrushed a hair from my forehead, took my check in his hand and kissed me, urgently, desperately. After a while he held me hard against him and whispered throatily, "I don't think you'll be needing that taxi, Jones." The second we were inside his flat

we fell upon each other like beasts: shoes, jackets strewn in a trail across the room.

"I don't think this skirt's looking at all well," he murmured. "I think it should lie down on the floor.7 As he started to undo the zip he whispered, "This is just a bit of fun. OK? I dun't think we should start getting involved." Then, caveat in place, he carried on with the zip. Had it not been for Sharon and the fuckwittage and that I'd just drunk the best part of a hottle of wine. I would have sunk powerless into his arms. As it was, I leapt to my feet, pulling up my skirt.

That is just such crap," I slurred. 'How dare you be so fraudulently flirtatious, cowardly and dysfunctional? I am not interested in

emotional fuckwittage. Goodbye. It was great. You should have seen his face. But now I am home I am sunk into gloom. I may bave been right, but my reward. I know, will be to end up all alone, half-caten by an Alsatian.

Monday 13 February

Midnight: Ugh. Completely exhausted. Surely it is not normal to be revising for a date as if it were a job interview? Suspect Daniel's enormously well read brain may turn out to be something of a nuisance if things develop. Maybe I should have fallen for someone younger and mindless who would cook for me, wash all my clothes and agree with everything I say.

Since leaving work I have nearly slipped a disc, wheezing through a step acrobics class, scratched my naked body for seven minutes with a stiff brush; cleaned the flat; filled the fridge, plucked my cyebrows, skimmed the papers and the Ultimate Sex Guide, put the washing in and waxed my own legs, since it was too late to book an appointment.

Ended up kneeling on a towel trying to pull off a wax strip firmly stuck to the back of my calf while watching Newsnight in an effort to drum up some interesting opinions about things. My back hurts, my bead aches and my legs are bright red and covered in lumps of wax.

Wise people will say Daniel should like me just as I am, but I am a child of Cosmopolitan culture, have been traumatised by supermodels and too many quizzes and know that neither my personality nor my body is up to it if left to its own devices. I can't take the pressure. I am going to cancel and spend the evening eating doughnuts in a cardigan with egg on it.

Saturday 25 February

8st 10 (miracle: sex proved indeed to be best form of exercise); alcohol units 0; cigarettes 0; calories 200 (at last have found the secret of not eating: simply replace food with sex).

6pm: Oh joy. Have spent the day in a state t can unly describe as shagdrunkenness, mooning about the flat, smiling, picking things up and putting them down again. It was so lovely. The only down points were 1) immediately it was over Daniel said, "Damn. I meant to take the car intu the Citroën garage," and 2) when I got up to go to the bathroom he pointed out that I had a pair of tights stuck to the back of my calf.

But as the rosy clouds disperse, I begin to feel alarm. What now? No plans were made, Suddenly I realise I am waiting for the phone again. How can it be that the situation between the sexes after a first night remains so agonisingly unbalanced? Feel as if I have just sat an exam and must wait for my results.

Friday 3 March

At 4.15 Sharon rang me in the office. "Are you coming out with me and Jude tomorrow?"

"Er ..." I silently panicked, thinking, Surely Daniel will ask to see me this weekend before he leaves the office? "Call me if he doesn't ask," said Shazzer drily, after a pause.

At 5.45pm saw Daniel with his coat on heading out through the door, My traumatised expression must have shamed even him because he smiled shiftily, nodded at the computer screen and shot out.

Sure enough, Message en ding was flashing. I pressed RMS. It said: Message Jones

Have a good weekend. Pip pip. Miserably, I picked up the phone

and dialled Sharon. "What time are we meeting tomorrow?" I mumbled sheepishly.

"Eight thirty. Café Rouge. Don't worry, we love you. Tell him to bugger off from me. Emotional fuckwit. 2am: Argor sworeal brilleve with Sbazzan Judc. Dun stupid care bout Daniel stupid prat. Feel sicky though.

Sunday 5 March

8am: Ugh. Wish was dead. Am never, ever going to drink again for the rest 8.30am: Oooh. Could really fancy

some chips, 11.30am: Badly need water but seems better to keep eyes closed and head stationary on pillow so as not to disturb bits of machinery and

phcasants in head. 5pm: Har har. Am marvellous. Feeling v pleased with self. Had top-level postworks crisis meeting in Cafe Rouge with Sharon, Jude and Tom, who were all delighted with the Daniel outcome. each convinced it was because I had followed their advice. Also Jude had heard survey on the radio that by the turn of the millennium a third of all households will be single, therefore proving that at last we are no longer tragic freaks. Shazzer guffawed and

said, "One in three? Nine out of 10. more likc." Sharon maintains men - present company (ie Tom) excepted, obviously - are so catastrophically unevolved that soon they will just be kept by women as pets for sex, therefore presumably these will not count as shared housebolds as the men will be kept uutside in kennels. Anyway. feeling v empowered. Tremendous. Think might read hit of Susan Faludi's . Backlash.

5am: Oh God, am so unhappy about Daniel. t love him.

Monday 20 March

9st; alcohol units 4 (getting into mood); cigarettes 27 (but last day before giving up); calories 2,455. Have decided to serve the shepherd's pie with chargrilled Belgian endive salad, Roquefort lardons and frizzled chorizo, to add a fashionable touch (have not tried before but sure it will be easy), followed by individual Grand Marnier soufflés.

V much looking forward to the birthday. Expect to become known as hrilliant cook and hostess.

Tuesday 21 March: my birthday

9st; alcohol units 9; cigarettes 42; calories 4.295 (If can't splash out on birthday, when can 1?) 6.30pm: Cannot go on. Have just stepped in a pan of mashed potato in new kitten-heel black suede shoes from Pied à Terre (Pied-a-Pomme-de-Terre, more like), forgetting that kitchen floor and surfaces were

covered in pans of mince and mashed

potato.

6.30pm: Aiready! Have to go out to Cullens for Grand Marnier soufflé ingredients and other forgotten items. Oh my God - suddenly remembered tube of contraceptive jelly may be on side of washbasin. Must also hide storage jars with embarrassing un-hip squirrel design and birthday card from Jamie with picture of little lamb on front which says "Happy Birthday, Guess which one is you?" Then inside, "You're the one over the hill." Humph.

Schedule: 6.30pm: Go to shop. 6.45pm: Return with forgotten

groceries.
6.45-7pm: Assemble shepherd's pie and place in oven (oh God, hope will

7-7.05pm: Prepare Grand Marnier soufflés. (Actually think will have a little taste of Grand Marnier now. It is my birthday, after all.)

7.05-7.10pm: Mmm. Grand Marnier delicious - Check plates and cutlery for tell-tale signs of sluttish washingup and arrange in attractive fan shape. Ah, must buy napkins also (or is it serviettes? Can never remember which

one is common).
7.10-7.20pm: Tidy up and move furniture to sides of room. 7.20-7.30pm: Make frisé lardon frizzled chorizo thing.

All of which leaves a clear half-bour to get ready so no need to panic. Must have a fag. Aargb. It's quarter to seven. How did that bappen? Aargh. 7.15pm: Just got back from shop and realise have forgotten butter.
7.35pm: Shit, shit shit. The shepherd's pie is still in pans all over the kitchen floor and have not yet washed hair.

style diamond-patterned sweater.
"What I resent, though" - Natasha was looking all sort of twitchy and distorted as if she were in an Oxbridge debating society - "is this, this sort of, arrogant individualism which imagines each new generation can somebow create the world afresb."

"But that's exactly what they do do," said Mark Darcy gently.

"Ob well, I mean if you're going to look at it at that level ..." said Natasha defensively.
"What level?" said Mark Darcy.

"It's not a level; it's a perfectly good

"No. No. I'm sorry, you're deliberately being obtuse," she said, going bright red. "I'm not talking about a ventilating deconstructionalistic freshness of vision. I'm talking about the ultimate vandalisation of the cultural

framework. Mark Darcy looked as if he was going to burst ont laughing.
"What I mean is, if you're taking that sort of cutesy, morally relativistic, 'Blind Date is brilliant' sort of line ..."

sbe said with a resentful look in my "I wasn't, I just really like Blind Date," I said. "Though I do think it would be better if they made the pickees make up their own replies to the questions instead of reading out those stupid pat answers full of puns

and sexual innuendos." 10pm: Was just getting my coat to go home when beard Daniel's voice behind me.

"How come you know Mark Darcy?" "They're friends of my parents. I used to play with him in the paddling

"Yes, I bet you did, you dirty little bitch," he growled. "Do you want to come and have supper?

Inner poise, I told myself, inner "Come on, Bridge," he said, leaning towards me seductively. I need to have a serious discussion about your blause. It's extremely thin, Almost, when you examine it, thin to the point of transparency. Has it ever occurred to you that your blouse might be

Anyway. Daniel and I are going to a party tonight at his friend Wicksy's, then tomorrow I expect we will go to the park or out to a lovely pub in the country for lunch. It is marvellous

baving a boyliriend. 7pm: Humph. Daniel has just gone home. Bit fed-up, actually. Was really lovely hot Sunday but Daniel did not want to go out or discuss mini-breaks and insisted on spending all afternoon with the curtains drawn, watching the cricket. Also the party was quite nice last night, but at one point we went over to join Wicksy and a very pretty

girl be was talking to. I did notice, as we approached, that she looked rather "Daniel," said Wicksy, "have you

met Vanessa?" "No," said Daniel, putting on his most flirtatious seductive grin and holding out his hand. "Nice to meet

"Doniel," said Vanessa, folding her arms and looking absolutely livid, "We've slept together."

Friday 9 June

9am: Hurrah! Night out with girls tonight.
7pm: Oh. no. Turns out Rebecca is coming. An evening with Rebecca is like swimming in sea with jellyfish: all will be going along perfectly pleasantly then suddenly you get painful lashing, destroying confidence at stroke. Trouble is, Rebecca's stings are aimed so subtly at one's Achilles' beels, like Gulf War missiles going "Fzzzzzz whoosssb" through Baghdad hotel corridors, that never see them coming. Sharon says am not 24 any more and

should be mature enough to deal with Rebecca. She is right. Midnight: Argor es wororrible. Am olampassit. Face collapsin.

Wednesday 16 August: iob interview day

Horrible night. Kept waking up bathed in sweat, panicking about the difference between the Ulster Unionists and SDLP and which of them Ian Paisley was involved in.

away with sleeping with a prostitute himself. Suddenly, he was looking

willche

straight at me. "Do you know" The entire table of grunge youths stared. "You. You must be Bridget!" he shouted impatiently. "How does a man with a beautiful girlfriend manage to sleep with a prostitute, get found out and get away with it?" My mind went blank. "Well?" he said. "Well? Come on,

say something!"
"Well, maybe," t said, because it was the only thing I could think of, "it was because somebody swallowed the evidence." There was a deathly hush, then Richard Finch started to laugh. It was the most repulsive laugh I've ever heard in my life. Then all the grunge youths started to laugh as well.

"Bridget Jones," said Richard Finch eventually, wiping his eyes, "Welcome to Good Afternoon. Take a seat, my darling," and then he winked. 'Nine o'clock Service, I'm thinking dirty vicars. I'm thinking sexual acts in church. I'm thinking, why do women fall for vicurs? Come on, I'm not paying you for nothing. Have an idea."

"Why don't you interview Joanna

Trollope?" I said. "A trollop?" he said, staring at me blankly. "What trollup?" "Joanna Trollope. The woman who wrote The Rector's Wife that was on the telly. The

Rector's Wife. She should know. A leery smile spread across his face. Brilliant," he said to my hreasts. "Absolutely fucking hrilliant. Anyone got a number for Joanna Trollope?"

There was a long pause. "Er. actually I have." I said eventually, feeling walls of hate vibes coming from

the grunge youths.
When the meeting was over I rushed to the loo to recover my composure and found Patchouli making herself up next to her friend, who was wearing a sprayed-on dress that showed her pants and midriff.

This isn't too tarty, is it?" the girl was saying tu Patchouli. "You should have seen those hitch thirtysomethings' faces when I walked in ... Oh!" Both girls looked at me, horrified,

with their hands over their mouths. 'We didn't mean you." they said. I am not sure if I am going to be able to stand this.

The complete unexpurgated diary of Bridget Jones

'Independent' regulars have been reading Bridget Jones's diary for more than a year. Next week it appears as a book. Here new readers can discover what they've been missing

7.40pm: Ob my God. Just looked for milk and realised have left the carrier bag behind in the shop. Also bad the eggs in it. That means ... Oh God, and the olive oil ... so cannot do frizzy

salad thing.
7.40pm: Hmm. Best plan, surely, is to get in both with a glass of champagne then get ready. At least if I look nice I can carry on cooking when everyone is bere and maybe can get Tom to go out for the missing ingredients.
7.55pm: Aargh. Doorbell. Am in bra and pants with wet hair. Pie is all over floor. Suddenly hate the guests. Have had to slave for two days, and now they will all swan in, demanding food like cuckoos. Feel like opening door and shouting, "Oh, go fuck yourselves." 2am: Feeling v emotional. At door were Magda, Tom. Shazzer and Jude with bottle of champagne. They said to hurry up and get ready and when I had dried hair and dressed they bad cleaned up all the kitchen and thrown away the shepherd's pie. It turned out

Magda had booked a big table at 192 and told everyone to go there instead of my flat, and there they all were waiting with presents, planning to buy me dinner. Magda said they had had a weird, almost spooky sixth sense that the Grand Marnier soufflé and frizzled lardon thing were not going to work out. Love the friends, better than extended Turkish family in weird headscarves any day.

Wednesday 5 April

I have discovered inner poise. Met Perpetua at party and discussed art and soaps. Looked up, saw darkbaired man in suit in front of me.

 "Hello, Bridget," he said. I nearly opened my mouth and let all the sate sticks fall straight out. It was Mark

suffering from ... bulimia?"
"I've got to meet someone," I whispered desperately.
"Come on, Bridge."

"No," I said with a firmness that rather surprised me.

"Shame," he said softly. "See you Monday," and gave me a look so dirty I felt like throwing myself after him shouting, "Shag me! Shag me!"
11pm: Just called Jude and told ber about Daniel incident, also about Malcolm and Elaine Darcy's son, whom Mum and Una had tried to get me off with at the turkey curry buffet, turning up at the party looking rather

"Wait a minute," said Jude. "You don't mean Mark Darcy? The lawyer?"
"Yes. What - do you know him?" "Well, yes. I mean, we've done some

work with him. He's incredibly nice and attractive. I thought you said the chap at the turkey curry buffet was a real geck." Humph. Bloody Jude.

Saturday 3 June

8st 13; alcohol units 5; cigarettes 25; calories 600; minutes spent looking at brochures: long-haul 45, mini-break 87, 1471 calls 7 (g). Finding it impossible to concentrate

on almost anything in the beat except fantasies about going on mini-breaks with Daniel. Head is filled with visions of us lying in glades by rivers, me in long white floaty dress, Daniel and me sitting outside ancient Cornish waterside pub sipping pints in matching striped T-shirts and watching the sun set over the sea; Daniel and me eating candlelit dinners in historic country-house-botel courtyards then retiring to our room to shag all hot

Instead of being ushered into the office to meet the great Richard Finch, I was left pouring sweat in reception for 40 minutes thinking Oh my God who's the Health Secretary? before being picked up by the sing-song personal assistant - Patchouli - who sported Lycra cycle shorts and a nose stud and blanched at my Jigsaw suit, as if, in a hideously misjudged attempt to be formal, I bad turned up in a floorlength shot-silk Laura Ashley

bailgown.
Richard says to come to the conference, know what I'm sayin'?" she muttered, powering off down a corridor while I scurried after her. She burst through a pink door into a vast open-plan office strewn with piles of scripts, TV screens suspended from the ceiling, charts all over the walls, and mountain bikes propped against the desks. At the far end was a large oblong table where the meeting was in progress. Everyone turned and stared as we approached.

A plump, middle-aged man with curly blond hair, a denim shirt and red Christopher Biggins spectacles was jigging up and down at the end of the

"Come on! Come on!" he was saying, bolding up his fists like a boxer. "I'm thinking Hugh Grant. I'm thinking Elizabeth Hurley. I'm thinking how come two months on they're still together. I'm thinking how come he gets away with it. That's it! How does a man with a girlfriend with looks like Elizabeth Hurley have a blow-job from a prostitute on a public highway and get away with it? What happened to hell bath no fury?"

I couldn't believe this. What about the Shadow Cabinet? What about the Peace Process? He was obviously trying to work out how he could get

Tuesday 3 October

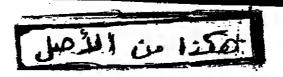
8st 12; alcohol units 3 (vg); cigarettes 21 (bad); number of times said word "bastard" in last 24 hours 369 (approx). 7.30pm. Complete panic stations. Mark Darcy is coming round to pick me up in half an hour. Just got home from work with mad bair and unfortunate laundry crisis outfit on. Help oh belp. Was planning to wear white 501s but suddenly occurs to me he may he the type who will take me to a posb scary restaurant. Oh God, do not have anything posh to wear. Do you think be will expect me to put bunny tail on? Not that I'm interested

in bim or anything. 8pm: Drying hair now. V much hope Mark Darcy is late as do not want him to find me in dressing gown with wet 8.05pm: Hair is more or less dry now. Then just have to do make-up, get

dressed and put mess behind sofa. Must prioritise. Consider make-up most important, then mess disposal, 8.15pm: Still not here. Vg. Keen on at man who comes round late, in stark contrast to people who come round early, startling and panicking one and finding unsightly items still unhidden

8.20pm: Well, pretty much ready now. Maybe will put something different on. 8.30pm: This is weird. Not like him to be more than half an hour late. 9pm: Cannot quite believe it. Mark Darcy has stood me up. Bastard!

Thursday 12 October 9st 1 (bad); alcohol units 3 (both healthy and normal); cigarettes 13: fat units 17 (wonder if it's possible to calculate fat unit content of entire body? Hope otherwise): Instants 3 (fair): 1471 calls to see if Mark Darcy has ning 12 .



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... watched video 17 times (bad); calories 2846

Humph, Incensed by patronising article in the paper by Smug Married journalist. It was headlined, with subtleas-a-Frankie-Howerd-sexual-innuendostyle irony: The Joy of Single Life. They re young, ambitious and rich out their lives hide an aching loneliness

... When they leave work a gaping emotional hole opens up before them ... Lonely style-obsessed individuals seek consolation in packeted comfort food of the kind their mother might have made."

Huh. Bloody nerve. How does Mrs Smug Married-at-22 think she knows, thank you very much?

Mer Sharon, Jude and Tom after work. Tom, too, was working on a furious imaginary article about Smug Marrieds' gaping emotional holes.

Their influence affects everything from the kind of houses being built to the kind of food that stocks the supermarket shelves." Tom's appalled article was going to rant. "Everywhere we see Anne Summers shops catering for housewives trying pathetically to simulate the thrilling sex enjoyed by Singletons and exotic foodstuffs in Marks & Spencer for exhausted couples trying to pretend they're in a lovely restaurant like the Singletons and don't wave to do the washing-up."
"I'm bloody sick of this arrogant

hand-wringing about single life!" roared Sharon. Yes, yes!" I said.

"You forgot the fuckwittage," burped Jude. "We always have fuckwittage." "Anyway, we're not lonely. We have . extended families in the form of networks of friends connected by telephone," said Tom.

"Yes! Hurrah! Singletons should not have to explain themselves all the time but should have an accepted status like geisha girls do," I shouted, slurping on my tumbler of Chilean chardonnay. "Geisha girls?" said Sharon, looking at me coldly.

"Shut up, Bridge," slurred Tom. "You're drunk. You're just trying to escape from your yawning emotional hole into drunk.

'Well, so's bloody well Shazzer," I said sulkily.
"I's not," said Sharon.

"You's blurr are," I said. "Look. Shuddup," said Jude, burping again, "Shagernothebol chardonnay?"

dor Bridget Jones Offer', 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ.

Friday 13 October 9st 3 (but have temporarily turned into wine bag); alcohol units 0 (but feeding off wine bag); calories 0 (v.g.)*. Actually might as well be honest here. Not really vg as only 0 because puked up 5.876 calories immediately after eating. Oh God, I'm so lonely. An entire weekend stretching ahead with no one to love or have fun with. Anyway, I don't care. I've got a lovely steamed ginger pudding from M&S to put in the

Sunday 5 November

Tom says he's too fat. "How many calories are you supposed to eat if you're on a diet?"
"About 1,000. Well, I usually aim for 1,000 and come in at about 1,500," I said, realising as I said it that the last

bit wasn't strictly true. "1,000?" said Tom incredulously. "But I thought you needed 2,000 just to

I looked at him nonplussed. Have spent so many years heing on a diet that the idea that you might actually need calories to survive has been completely wiped out of my consciousness. Have reached point where believe nutritional ideal is to eat nothing at all and that the only reason people eat is because they are so greedy they cannot stop themselves.

How many calonies in a boiled egg?" said Tom.

"Banana?" "Large or small?"

"Small

"80," I said, confidently. "Olive?"

"Black or green?" "Black."

'Nine.'

"Hobnob?"

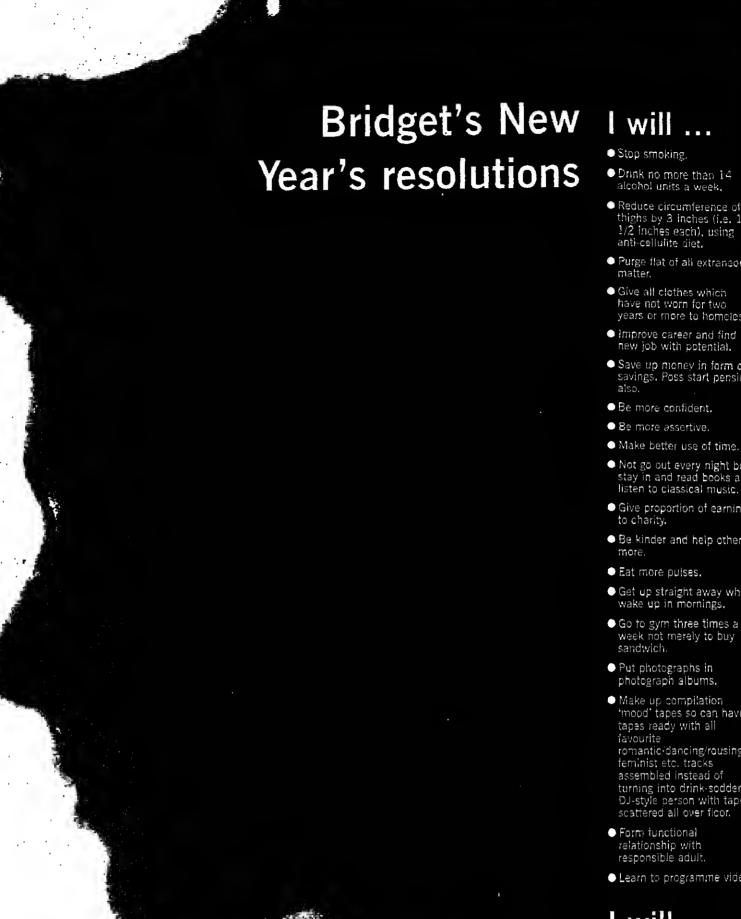
"Box of Milk Tray?"

"How do you know all this?" I thought about it. "I just do, as one knows one's alphabet or times tables." "OK, Nine eights," said Tom.
"64. No. 56, 72."

"What letter comes before J?" "P. L, I mean."

Tom says I am sick but I happen to know for a fact that I am normal and no different from everyone else.

adget Jones's Diary is published by Picador on 25 October. To order a copy at the special price of £9.99 including P&P (RRP £12.99), please call our debit/credit card line on 0181 324-5700 or send a cheque/PO payable to 'BVCD', to 'Picad-



- Drink no more than 14 alcohol units a week.
- Reduce circumference of thighs by 3 inches (i.e. 1 1/2 inches each), using anti-cellulite diet.
- Purge flat of all extraneous
- Give all clothes which have not worn for two
- years or more to homeless. Improve career and find
- new job with potential. Save up money in form of
- savings. Poss start pension
- Be more confident. Be more assertive.
- Make better use of time. Not go out every night but stay in and read books and
- Give proportion of earnings
- Be kinder and help others
- Eat more pulses.
- Get up straight away when wake up in mornings.
- Go to gym three times a week not merely to buy sandwich.
- Put photographs in photograph albums.
- Make up compilation 'mood' tapes so can have tapes ready with all romantic dancing/rousing feminist etc. tracks assembled instead of turning into drink-sodden
- Learn to programme video.

not ...

- Drink more than 14 alcohol units a week.
- Smoke.
- Waste money on: pastamakers, ice-cream machines or other culinary devices which will never use; books by unreadable literary authors to put impressively on shelves; exotic underwear, since pointless as have no bayfriend.
- Behave sluttishly around the house, but instead imagine others are
- Spend more than earn. Allow in-tray to rage out of control.
- Fall for any of following: alcoholics, workaltolics commitment phobics. people with girlfriends or wives, rnisogynists, megalomaniacs, chauvinists, emotional fuckwits or freeloaders, perverts.
- Get annoyed with Mum, Una Alconbury or Perpetua.
- Get upset over men, but instead be poised and cool ice-queen.
- Have crushes on men, but instead form relationships based on mature assessment of character.
- Bitch about anyone behind their backs, but be positive about everyone.
- Obsess about Daniel Cleaver as pathetic to have a crush on boss in manner of Miss Moneypenny or similar.
- Suik about having no boyrriend, but develop inner poise and authority and sense of self as wortian of substance complete without boyfriend, as best way to cota n boyfrieng.

arts & books

Pinter: Memory into menace, page 8 Big knobs and pillys. Richard Mabey on plant life, page 9



shelf life

Bill Drummond reviews his own back catalogue

I designed the sets for this 24-hour play by Ken Campbell. It got a transfer in the Roundhouse but the night before its second run I got scared because my sets were falling apart. I was screwing this toilet bowl into the stage and it cracked, and that was it. I said, "I'm off to buy some glue," and never went back.

Big in Japan

This group nnly lasted 12 months hut that's about as lnng as any punk band should last. We never got anywhere, but all went on in success later nn with bands like Siouxsie and the Banshees and The Teardrop Explodes. Once we managed to con the promoters into putting us top of the hill. The next day we got a review that said, "sadly, they saved the worst 'til last".

Echo and the Bunnymen After the band fell apart I managed Echo and the Bunnymen. Looking back, I used their career as a canvas to express my own creativity, instead of making them rich. It was selfish but I was too innocent to be a svengali.

The Manual: How to Have A Number 1 the Easy Way

As The Timelords, Jimmy Cauty and I set out to make a post-modern novelty hit. We

wanted to make a record that came from nowhere and annoyed the hell out of people. Afterwards I wrote this book. Basically it said you had to be on the dole, watch Top of the Pops every week and if you had any instruments you had to get rid of them. A band called Eidelweiss read it, sampled Swiss yodelling with Abba, and had number ones in Germany, Austria and Scandinavia.

The Justified Ancients of Mu

Mu was our crowning moment, pure pop.

The K Foundation In 1994 we presented an

award which mirrored the Turner Prize. People applauded us for attacking contemporary art, but we were saying contemporary art just wasn't contemporary enough. We also burnt a million quid. That was the most perfect thing I've done, it's an icon of the 20th century. Some people thought it was indulgence, others idealism but most were angry we hadn't given it to them.

Bad Wisdom

I wrote this with Mark Manning. It's the story of . our journey to plant an icon of Elvis at the North Pole. It wasn't fun. I'm driven by things I wish weren't

Cliff: not the full Brontë

MUSICAL 'Heathcliff', The Academy, Birmingham

By Paul Taylor

liff Richard miscast as Heathcliff? Stuff and nonsense, say those of us who can remember thrilling to Perry Como's definitive Antichrist, Bonnie Langford's hlood-freezing Medea and Max Bygraves's never-to-be-forgotten Titus Andronicus. Nn, this is a prime to the wall a newspaper clipping with heat that Cliff was destined to play.

part that Cliff was destined to play.

It's not just that Wuthering Heights is the one novel he admits to having read, you have to consider, too, the nature of Bronte's hero. With all that stuff about the "eternal rocks" and the descriptions of Heathcliff as arid whinstone, yon feel that it would take a geologist rather than a psychiatrist to straighten the character out. Now cast your mind back to the days when the pop star was still young Harry Webb. Of all the Christian names available to him, what did he choose? Call me old fashiooed, hut I say that's Freudian.

Cliff has been giving women hot flushes for almost four decades and you can't help thinking that for the bulk of his fan club nowadays, this is a case of taking coals to Newcastle. Sitting in an audience of close on 4,000 of them at the opening night, I felt outnumbered in a way that I haven't since I covered a lesbian version of Peter Pan at the Drill Hall. I'd certainly have felt more a part of the occasion if I'd been wearing a white pleated skirt and smart little navy jacket. On a televisioo phone-in about the previous night's performance, devoted admirers said at length what you'd expect. The anchor person wondered whether there were any criticisms. One woman confessed that, in the climactic Heathcliff and Cathy scene, Cliff could perhaps "work oo his passioo". With respect to this lady, I think she's got it all wrong. The secret of Cliff's appeal is that his sexiness is utterly devoid of dangerous passion or these these secrets of the secret that or threat. He's ageless, not in the sense that something perfect is faultless but in the sense that a vacuum is airless. His is a vacuumpacked innocence and I can understand the and hot-house eroticism of Tristan und Isolde.

painter recalls how, back in the Sixties the pinned to the wall a newspaper clipping with the headline "Two Boys Cling To Cliff All Night". David, mate, dream on.

Just how likeable and un-dangerous Cliff is twee best environment for me but he final line.

is was best epitomised for me by the final lineup. As women rushed to the stage, the beaming cast linked hands and swayed happily while singing over and over "the Devil Incaa-aroate". The phrase comes from one of Tim Rice's lyrics: is Heathcliff "the Devil Incarnate or / a misunderstood man"? But for all they were concentrating on the dark meaning of the line, the cast might just as well have been singing "a pina colaa-a-da". SingalongaSatan. And as for the much-talked-about moment when Cliff has to hit a pregnant woman, there was an audible reaction, yes, but it struck me as registering surprise at the nov-elty of the thing (like first seeing members of the Royal Family on It's a Knockout) rather than the moral disorientation of, say, seeing Esther Rantzen child-beating.

I wouldn't want to run Cliff down, though - he has a very pleasant singing voice which is still in bloody good nick, given his age. Wooden he may be, and that transatlantic accent of his gets into a terrible state trying to do the Yorkshire accent ("I shall not stand to be laffed at"). But the bloke has what you can only describe as integrity. His utter palpable belief in this project may be misguided, but it's touching - particularly since most of the other elements in Frank Dunlop's awful productioo seem to be out to sabotage him.

High oo this list comes John Farrar's music. Wheo Buñuel filmed a version of Wuthering Heights, he used the chromatic excruciations charm of it. Elvis he never was and, sure You wouldn't expect such intensity from a



ter than the vapid pop pap Farrar dishes up. Nowhere is it deployed with dramatic intelligence. Take the use of reprise, where remembered emotion can be played off the emotion of the current scene. At Heathcliff's wedding to Isabella, there's a tripping, stiff-kneed number whose whole personality sounds quite ludicrous when it's reprised in, of all places, the graveyard sceoe.

Computer projections give you all kinds of sky: tequila sunrise skies; revolving lashes of Timeresque streaky bacon skies, etc. Ooc-third of these projections had not heen used at the preview because of a shortage of techoical rehearsal time and other mishaps. Reviewing this preview, the arts editor of The

musical, but you might expect something bet- Times did not inform his readers (a) that it was a preview he was reviewing: (h) that the production was, at this stage, incomplete; or (e) that the people were none the less paying full price. But then, The Times is to journalism what Heathcliff is to art.

About to make his flower-laden final exit,

Cliff came back, stooped to pick up a technique bear that someone had thrown and charmed the company of the com held it up for us to see. Presented with a fluffy toy, Bronte's Heathcliff (who hangs Isabella's dog, for God's sake) would drive a stake through its heart. Cliff, you felt, would give it a good home.

At The Academy, Birmlogham, to 2 Nov (booking: 0121 200 2222), then Edinburgh, Manchester and London

By Robert Cowan

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ASSICAL MUSIC Hagai Shaham, Wigmore Hall, London

of shellac surface noise. But on Thursday evening at the Wigmore Hall, 30-year-old violinist Hagai Shaham drew aside the veil to reveal a soulful narrative and a tone that was as rich and vibrant as Jascha Heifetz's on my trusted old 78rpm record. Hagai gave us the Melody as one of two encores, having already treated us to three other works by Achron the three-movement Stempenyu Suite, a highly charged Stimmung and a rustic Hebrew Dance. Achron was born in Lithuania in 1886, emigrated to America and died there in 1943. His work recalls small Jewish communities in pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe, sacred in joy and supplication, passionate, excitable and without the least suggestion of pretension. It's the music

he last time I heard Joseph Achron's of heart and family, comfortable and intensely emotional and in marked contrast to the more cosmopolitan language of Ernest Bloch. Hagai's playing was both seamless and rhapsodic: he'd speed dangerously through the Hebrew Dance and yet his control of the bow allowed for an ethereal, long-breathed dimin-uendo at the end of the Hebrew Melody. Arnon Erez, Shaham's pianist, showed parallel insights into Achron's piano-writing (his handling of the Melody's opening bars was remarkably free) and I was happy to learn that these talented young artists have recorded a whole CD's worth of Achron's music for Biddulph (it's a November release).

It was but a short hop from the Hebrew Dance of Achron to the Hungarian Folk Dances that Bartok arranged for piano and that

Joseph Szigeti transcribed for violin and piano. The same executive virtues warmed the melody line - curvaceous slides, a smoothly drawn tone, geoerous vibrato and judicious phrasing, with only the odd botched harmonic to mar the effect. Debussy's late Violin Sonata was suitably capricious, with some spectacular runs and fairly forthright support from Erez.

Prior to the interval, our fiery fiddler was

a formal violinist and Arnon Erez more an accompanist than an equal partner. The opening Bach Sonata in E minor, BWV 1023, found Shaham rather rushing his fences, sliding from the note's centre during the opening Allegro, though quickly regaining composure for the remaining three movements. This time, the tone was lean, bright and cool, whereas the Kreutzer Sonata had plenty of

"welly" and a good deal of theatrical inflex-ion: Shaham is pretty adept at soaring high oo a *forte* theo diving to a sudden *pianissimo*. The second movement went very well (Shaham's trills are immaculate), though I would have welcomed less of a gap between indi-vidual variations. The finale was a genuine Presso, played with its repeat intact (the first movem, at's repeat was omitted) and main-taining considerable momentum for the duration. It was a good performance, mose-respectful than perceptive, whereas Hage of Actron, Bartok and Debussy were confided "from the inside". If he plays for us again and I sincerely hope that he does - perhaps he will forgo the formality of a "classical first half" and treat us to more rarities by Achron and, perhaps, Hubay nr Ysaye.

Traditionalists should stay

home. Everyone else

should consider the

Geraint Lewis Laurie Lewis THE PLAY THE OPERA Breaking the Waves Art . The Ring Matthew Warchus directs Torn Courtenay, Albert Finney and Ken Stott in Christopher Richard Jones's revised Royal Opera production of Wagner's complete Ring cycle, designed by Nigel Lowery, conducted by Bernard Haitink with casts including Emily Watson stars as a saint-like Scots overview girl whose marriage brings a kind of martyrdom in Lars von Trier's emotional Hampton's translation of Yasmina Reza's smash hit comedy about friendship, tale of doubt, faith, love and redemption. The Cannes Grand Jury prizewinner. betrayal and modern art. KEY egfried Jerusalem and John Tomlinson. Adam Mars-Jones hailed "an astonishing film, so well thought-out and passionately Impressed but wary, Paul Taylor enjoyed "meringue masquerading as piquantity sauced meat". "A remarkably wise, witty b critical Disagreeing with the Independent's earlier assessment, Robin Holloway couldn't reconcile the "Incongruities executed". "A melodrama of astonishing view power ... holds you, sometimes painfully, in its grip for every one of 158 minutes," cried the *Times*. "A fearless performance and elegant comedy," coold the Times.
"An endless stream of enjoyably philistine DICELLEN between the seen and the heard". "Much, much better," approved the FT. jokes ... Cracking entertainment," grinned the Telegraph. "Invigorating, disturbing and H "Seeks to express the human significance of the Ring ... compelling," judged the Guardian. "Haitink is one of the great Wagnerians ... a Ring for and of today, thoughtful, comfortless, 'critical' in the very best sense," cheered the Times. and a devastating film," trumpeted finally touching," praised the FT. "Superbly Premiere. "A test for the stomach as well GOOD acted and directed ... for all its manifest Overwhelming ... a remarkable cleverness, panders to popular prejudice." ₫ achievement," applauded Time Out. sniffed the Guardian. СK Booking fast at Wyndham's Theatre, London WC2 (0171-369 1736) Lumiere, London WC2 Tonight: Götterdämmerung; final cycle 24, 25, 28 Oct & 2 Nov at Covent Garden on view (0171-370 3014) and at selected À screens across London. (0171-304 4000) and on Radio 3.

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Meet Robson & Robson, the family firm that's cornered the market in close-harmony vocals. By David Benedict

Vou're an opera director and you're re-casting your latest hit. There are two key roles for tenor and counter-tenor, brothers in arms, whose friendship has been forced in battle and who have a read on forged in batile and who have saved one another's lives. Your singers have to convince an audience of the passionate strug-gle between religion, free will and political duty. Whom do you cast? Peter Sellars's

inspired answer is the brothers Robson. The case of singing siblings Nigel and Christopher isn't unique, but it's damned rare. The soprano Kristine Ciesinski has a mezzo sister, Katherine; Terry and Neil Jenkins have been known to play Happy Families, but discounting the Everly Broth-

ers and the Nolan Sisters, that's about it.
What is unique about the pair of them. aside from the unusual pairing of tenor and counter-tenor, is their acting talent. These two aren't just international soloists who sing on stage, they are genuine operatic animals. Cast either of them and you can wave good-bye to the old-fashioned 'stand and deliver" performance style. . Both are more than capable of producing honeyed tones, but these two give you something bolder, richer and altogether more theatrical. Some directors (and particularly record producers) favour evenness of sound above all else. It's a little reminiscent of the Tebaldi and Callas dehate: purity versus passion. Luckily for anyone going to Glyndebourne's inspirational staging of Handel's oratorio Theodora, Peter Sellars bas opted for the dramatic approach.

What he cannot have known is just how ideally suited these two are to playing the roles of the Roman commanding officer Septimius and his friend Didymus, a convert to the forbidden faith of Christianity. The Robsons' parents were officers in the Salvation Army, but they are both keen to dispel any notions of bible-bashing and Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit-style repression. Not only was theirs an enlightened evangelical environment, music was central to their lives. They sang constantly and played brass instruments in the Salvation a year," he recalls. "When I went to Cam- Freeman who brought them together and allowing them to discover things for them-

was constantly writing music for the church hut, again, not the imagined four-square English hymnal stuff. Nigel remembers that, as early as 1948, within three years of its premiere, his father had the sheet music two arias from Britten's Peter Grimes

that he wanted to sing.
"It was all part and parcel really. We were encouraged in music," observes Chris, the counter-tenor, "but there was never any pressure, just as there was no just went away and practised." pressure to join the Salvation Army. There was no pressure on us to do anything other than what we chose to do."

Neither of them is a practising Christian any longer, but their father's influence is there for all to see. Both have reputations as 20th-century music specialists. traceable back to their monthly record allowance and their father's encouraging them to listen to Messiaen and Stockhausen. He was also responsible for their interest in performing. "Dad used to do these evangetical musicals." says Nigel, "cobbling together hits of operetta and so on. It feels a hit embarrassing looking back." ("Awful," laughs Chris.) "Things like Salvation Ship Ahoy!, a sort of Billy Budd for the Lord." ("Jesus saves / in the waves," giggles Chris.) "He also did this strange thing, Three Faces of Eve, which was bits of a play plus Vaughan Williams's music for Job, over which he narrated the story of creation while people would mime it in some way, like dance."

Yet, for all their mixed feelings about the "church operas", both brothers recognise the experience as having ignited very strong feelings in them about theatre. Professional singing, however, was not immediately on the agenda. Nigel went to York University as an organist and composer, while Chris went to Trinity Music College as a trumpet player.

"My voice came down very slowly over

bridge Tech, aged nearly 17, it had settled into a light tenor / baritone, but I didn't sing. Then, at the beginning of my second year, someone heard me mucking about in the practice room and said I should have lessons, so I started singing tenor. One day I went straight from a trumpet lesson to a singing lesson, which was unusual. When I read the music, having been hearing the higher pitch on the trumpet. I read it wrong and sang an octave too high." Impressed, his teacher told him that, to allow the counter-tenor voice to settle, he shouldn't sing for a while. "Of course, I

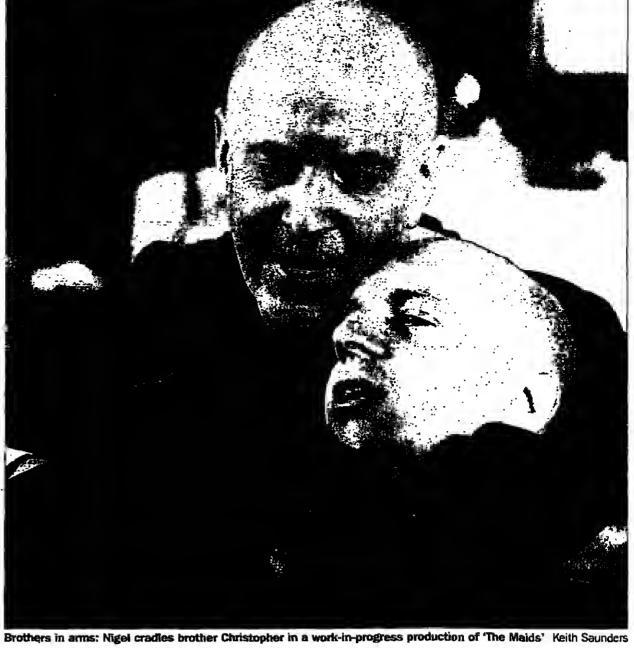
Music college was a disaster. "I was slung out in the middle of my second term. Some say my musical education began then," he says. He started lessons with Helga Mott - he stayed with her for 10 years - and within 12 months was earnmg a living, doing everything from deputis-ing in church choirs, to pop sessions at Wembley Studios and radio jingles.

The goals were to make a living and to make the sound as pure and straight as possible, because the majority of the work was ensemble singing. Now you can sing with a higger, fuller voice, with vibrato, with much more vocal freedom."

As last year's jokey The Three Counter-Tenors disc shows, there is no longer one. counter-tenor sound. Each of those three soloists has a distinctive timbre. While Chris was developing his sound in the wake of the 1970s counter-tenor boom heralded by the ascendancy of James Bowman - "a voice like a trombone," says Chris - his brother was studying singing at the Royal Northern College in Manchester and was having a struggle of his own. "I had a rather unfortunate obsession with Peter Pears," he grins. "I wanted to be able to communicate directly with people in the way be did. It wasn't so much that I wanted to make his sound, although I inevitably tried to, it was more to do with his understanding of humanity, a quality of compassion."

It was the Australian director David

ders: biological or non-biological.



changed their lives. He had already cast Chris in his celebrated Opera Factory staging of Monteverdi's Orfeo, when the scheduled tenor, unable to cope with Freeman's dramatic demands, pulled out a week into rehearsals. Chris suggested Nigel, who had just left Manchester, and, after auditioning for Freeman and conductor John Eliot Gardiner, he too joined the company.

Chris credits Freeman with opening up his latent desire to improvise and perform, and the pair of them thrived. Nigel describes it as a shared, daring, idealistic desire to see how far Freeman's discipline of improvisation and characterisation could go in finding ways of speaking to an . audience. "He created parameters for a performer, making us create a character who then played the role," says Chris. "That made it easier than just going in and playing Orfeo." They relished the shared responsibility for a piece, working with a director who liberated the performer,

selves, something far more akin to theatre than the intensely formal, hierarchical world of traditional opera rehearsals. The release of their dramatic powers

ensured them distinctive operatic careers. They have both excelled in mad scenes, Nigel playing a powerful Madwoman in Opera Factory's production of Britten's Curlew River, while Chris's intense portrayal of Edgar and Mad Tom formed a still, emotional centre to Reimann's Lear at ENO. They played La Calisto together and, in a semi-staged concert version of the Britten Canticles, they put a fraternal spin on Abraham and Isaac. "Brother killing brother," muses Nigel mischievously. "Interesting.

Their religious upbringing has resurfaced, unhidden, in Theodora. For Chris, one of the reasons I bave been so forceful about Didymus the convert being so completely enraptured by his conversion is possibly a subconscious reaction to believing that this is a very real possibility." Nigel sees the religious parallel in wider terms.

"One of the greatest gifts a parent can give to a child is a feeling of responsibility about making their own mind up. Not everyone has that. That feeling of freedom about religion lies at the heart of Theodora,"

Whatever their thought-processes, the intensity of their scenes together in rehearsals has moved at least one observer to tears. Their next joint project may move audiences in yet another direction, Producer Jean Nicholson is hoping to present them in the title roles of an opera based on Genet's The Maids, specially commissioned from composer John Lunn. They are still negotiating the rights, but a 25minute workshop of a couple of scenes has plready yielded exciting results. As in Theodora, the intimacy between the characters is lent an extra charge by their own relationship, the epitome of sibling rivalry. How much more typecast can you get?

Theodora': tonight, Tues, Fri, Glyndebourne Opera House, E Sussex (booking: 01273 813813), then touring



remember what you doing that Mary Millington dead? Thought not. But do you remember who she was when she was alive? muse of David Sullivan, the

country's pomo-

grapher-in-chief, who somehow achieved a newsworthiness out of all proportion to anything she had on offer. She was "ideal for glamour", as one photographer told her, inngue dangling somewhere in front of his solar plexus. In the diplomatic argot of the sex industry, that meant she was a midget with a rear the size of a Space Hopper: huilt not for clothes-horse work hut for other hranches of equestrianism.

Millington stood 4'11" in her birthday suit, the garment in which she mostly did business - althnugh, according to context, she might be seen modelling shreds of bikini, or the latest gizmo from the flourishing sex-aid market. When Sullivan launched Whitehouse, a pink mag that charmingly borrowed the surname of his most public enemy, he slapped his slapper on the cover. He even made her editor, though in a purely figleaf capacity: she was appointed to prove that a woman's role in pornography was not solely tubes. She was "our little bit of Hollywood", mused someone from the Sunday Mirror. The 1970s must have been even worse than we thought they were.

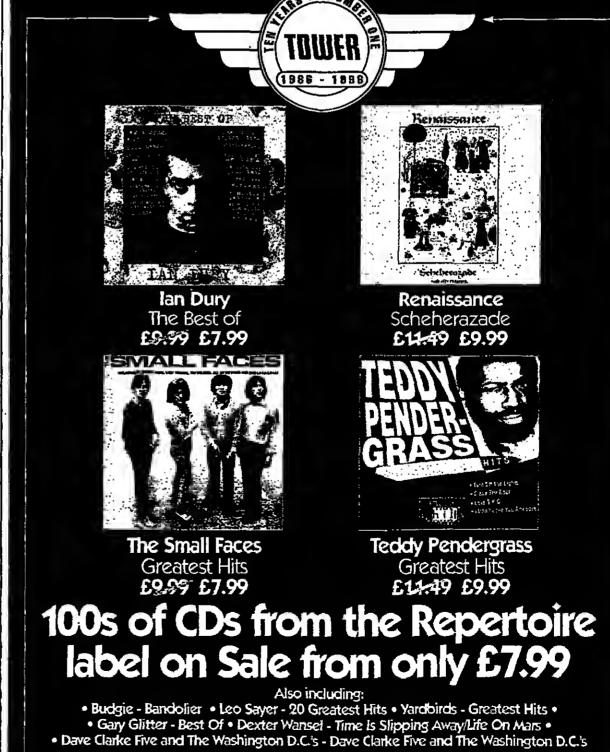
A childliko, bottle-blonde, hlowwaved attention-seeker, Millington promoted the idea of a spiritual sorority with Marilyn Monroe. But if she was anyone's little sister, it was Diana Dors's (with whom she slept on the quiet, and whose bushand she bedded, less furtively, on screen). The Mary Millington Story (C4, Sat) made as much as it could of the Norma Jean fixation, conscious that it purchased for her tawdry suicide a depth it could not supply on its own. It was suggested that, like Marilyn, Mary Millington bed-hopped along the corridors of power. She was once summoned by the Shah of Persia (the little known sale of huns-to-fran), hut the programme could supply no photographic evidence that she pleasured the powerful, unless you count the snap of her sitting fully clothed on Jimmy Hill's

knee (yes, knee). The sugar daddies and dirty uncles who cherish her memory insist that she fought a useful fight against censorship. Among the freedoms sho therefore helped hring about was the right to ogle at Eurotrash (C4, Fri), which seems to get franker with every passing frame, and Channel 5's programming. Announced last week, this will apparently stay onside taste-wise, but the boundary is growing ever hazier. The answer, surely, is to adopt the grading system used by soap

watch in hlack and white?

From Mammon to God, midnight to mid-morning. In The Big Questimn (BBC1, Sun) Mark Lawson asks celebrities where they stand on His existence. Scheduled after matins with the Very Reverent David Frost, it's a wafer-thin quarter of an bour - 15 minutes of faith. Big questions run the risk of provoking small answers, and Sir Anthony Hopkins is no less qualified to supply these than the rest of us. Sir Anthony doesn't seem to helieve in beavon, hut may well recognise a hell in which be is condemned to a perpetuity of interviews about his recovery from alcoholism. Now and then, a grainy eye-view cut in from overhead, teasing you with the idea that somebody up there might be watching. If any vicars are reading, there's a trendy metaphor for tomorrow's sermon: God as security camera. Which begs another Big Question: does He still

This is basically a chat show that happens not to be eponymously titled, because there's no more evidence that Lawson is curious about God's existence than there is of God's existence itself. Smillie's People (BBC1, every weekday), the first known instance of a chat show taking its name from a Cold War thriller, runs to the same length as Lawson's inquisition. It could almost be its little sister: The Small Question. "What about live concerts?" the grim interrogator grilled Lesley Garrett on Monday. "What have you got coming up?" Ve haf vays of making you plug...



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week's edition of Feedback was devoted to complaints about the kind of language used on Doon Your Way, a showcase for the comedian Doon McKichan that went out on Radio 4 on Thursday nights.

A typical letter was the one from a woman who wrote that at this time of day her two-year-old was likely to be listening and picking up words like "dildo". Jonathan-James Meore, head of light entertainment at BBC Radio, defended the programme on the grounds that bis department had been putting out slightly risquo comedy at 6.30pm on a Thursday for the past four years, and had thereby

established a context. Personally, I'm agnostic un Doon Your lkin and not particularly bothered by obscenity, even in the mouths of two-yearolds - to be frank, I'm always amused when people use rude words without knowing what they mean. In any case, why

all this fuss about a dildo: is there really anything so distasteful about an extinct flightless hird from Mauritius?

What does disturb me is Mr Moore's idea that he can establish a discrete context within Radio 4 for 30 minutes one evening a week, sandwiched in between the Six O'Clock News and The Archers. As it happens, this sort of thing goes on quite a lot - I think I'm right in saying that, for instance, Radio 4 is more likely to transmit gritty contemporary dramas on a Wednesday afternoon than on a Thursday, something to bear in mind if you want to save your children from the creeping vices of swearing and socialism. But it ignores the way that most people listen to the radio most of the time - that is, continuously, not switching on and off for individual programmes. It's hard to think that Mr Moore really believes listeners are alert to such subtleties in scheduling ("I keep forgetting what day madcap antics and use of words like "cliof the week it is, darling"; "I just beard somebody say twat on Radio 4, dear, so it must be Thursday").

Even if listeners do spot what's going on, how does it justify anything? If we were to carp at the mediocrity and silliness of the new Whitehall spy series Colvil and Soames, which goes out on a Wednesday lunchtime, would Radio 4 a bit of a killjoy.

answer hy saying that they've been putting out mediocre and silly drama series in this slot for years, and felt listeners knew what to expect?

Of course, the real context that justifies Doon Your Way isn't its time slot, but the strong British tradition of clever comedy which combines mild surrealism with an urge to epater les bourgeois. McKichan's Brownie trying for ber porn badge can trace her ancestry back through The Young Ones, Monty Python, I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue, Marty Feldman and Barry Took's scripts for Round the Horne and Beyond the Fringe all the way back to The Goon Show.

The tradition was neatly summed up in David Renwick's play Angry Old Men (Radio 4, Monday), which revolved around four comedians - and their attractive female sidekick - who in the Fifties and Sixties broke new ground with their toris"; now, they are old and screwed up, and one of them has been murdered. What was most impressive here was the way Renwick managed to duplicate the sort of humour he was referring to - showing you in the process bow formulaic anarchic comedy can be. It was a clever play; but I'm not sure that makes up for it being

Turning memory into menace

John Campbell, reading the biography he was once slated to write, finds unexpected personal echoes in the work of "an all-round man of the theatre"

The Life and Work of Harold Pinter by Michael Billington, Faber £20

our years ago I wanted to write a biography of Harold Pinter. Just for n moment he nibhled at the idea, then declined to help. I got as far as approaching some of his friends, but he warned them off. To discourage me from persisting he suggested to his publishers that they ask the Guardian theatre critic Michael Billington to write a book - not a hiography, it was firmly stated, hut a critical study, with some

hiographical assistance.

Pinter chose well. It is an outstandingly good hook. More nearly a full-blown biography, I suspect, than he initially agreed to, hut Billington evidently gained his confidence and persuaded him to talk — not so unguardedly as Robert Runcie, but certainly more freely than he has ever done before — and to let others talk. By modern standards it is an unusually tacful biography. The title precisely describes the balance between life and raphy. The title precisely describes the balance between life and criticism: Billington probes the life only so far as it illuminates the work, not for its own sake. Thus we learn remarkably little about Pinter's parents, and not much about the long painful deterioration of his marriage to Vivien Merchant or his alienation from their son. But we do learn a lot that throws new light on the plays: Billington is the first critic to make use of Pinter's archive which he recently gave to the British Library. Pinter should be very happy with his pre-emptive strike.

Memory has become an increasingly explicit theme in Pinter's work since the mid-Sixties. But it was always clear that even the early plays were rooted in the soil of his own life. He was an only child, but raised in a large and extrovert extended family. His childhood idyll was shattered by evacuation. But his really formative years were his teens, just after the war, when he fell in with a precociously intellectual gang of mainly Jewish friends at Hackney Downs School: together they explored Lawrence, Kafka and Dostoevsky, Pound, Bunuel and all the daring paths of modernism in literature, music and film, encouraged by an inspiring teacher called Joe Brearley. This world of intense male comradeship disturbed by sexual rivalry was the subject of Pinter's only novel, The Dwarfs, written in the early Fifties. Even before this, in 1949, be bad written an unpublished prose poem, "Kullus", which astonishingly anticipates the themes of his

More specifically, most of his later plays turn out to have their origin in real life; sometimes it is just an unexplained image which triggered his imagination, sometimes a more conscious process of transmutation. His very first play, The Room, sprang from a glimpse of two strange people in a room (one of whom was Quentin Crisp); *The Hothouse* (written in 1958, though not staged till 1980) stemmed from his experience as a guinea-pig (for ten bob a time) at the Maudsley Hospital; Old Times, written in 1970, recalls Bohemian days sharing flats in Chelsea and Fulham 20 years before. The characters of Aston and Davies in The Caretaker were based on real individuals who lived in the same house as Pinter and Vivien on Chiswick High Road; the starting-point of The Homecoming was one of Pinter's Hackney gang who married a Gentile girl, emigrated to Canada and kept his marriage secret from his Jewish family; while Billington's well-trailed "scoop" is the revelation that Betrayal has nothing to do with Antonia Fraser, but is based on Pinter's much earlier affair with Joan Bakewell.

memory into art. The power of his writing always stemmed from its specificity: the nature of the famous menace might be unexplained, but the setting (particularly of the early plays) was always chillingly realistic, the characters precisely placed in terms of class and speech. It is this social precision which makes Pinter, to my mind, so much more disturbing than the depersonalised abstraction of Beckett or the absurdity of Ionesco. It is typical that Pinter's screenplay of Kafka's *The Trial* sets the book meticulously in its period, eschewing the windy expressionism of earlier film treatments.

The plays' power derives, secondarily, from Pinter's old-fash-ioned craftsmanship. Billington is not the first to show how Pinter's mastery of suspense, interrogation scenes and comic crosstalk draws on his years of acting in third-rate whodunits in weekly rep up and down the country in the Fifties. But much of Pinter's strength lies in his admiration for the work of superficially very different writers like Coward and Rattigan, who in turn admired him. In recent years he has tended to act only in his own plays; but be is a scrupulous director of other people's plays. He has also written 22 screenplays, the best of which rank with his original stage work. He has an uncanny capacity to make other writer's books - The Servant, Accident, The Go-Between to name just three - unmistakably his own, without distorting them. The point is that he has become and remained an allround man of the theatre, with several strings to his bow and always busy. Again the comparison is with Coward or Ayckbourn, professionals and survivors, by contrast with contemporaries like Osborne, Wesker and Nichols - pure writers whose careers dried up when inspiration flagged. Billington suggests that Hirst in No Man's Land – the character Pinter himself played at the Almeida in 1994 – is a nightmare vision of what

he might become if be stopped working.

He has found writing increasingly hard since at least 1967; his subconscious does not produce to order. When an image suddenly crystallizes he writes very fast. But his stage works in recent years have been both sborter and slighter. The explicitly political One for the Road, Mountain Language and Party Time were scarcely more than brutal sketches; Moonlight and Ashes to Ashes return to the theme of memory, but with some loss of dramatic tension and an element of self-plagiarism (even selfparody). Billington makes a strong case for these later pieces relating Moonlight to Pinter's estrangement from his son but he does not fully explore the impact of his second marriage. It seems unquestionable that Vivien was in some senses his muse; though he denies consciously writing parts for her, she remains the essential Pinter woman. The tensions of that marriage - which lasted 20 years - produced all his great plays; Antonia Fraser has given him a new happiness and security, but something bas gone out of his work.

Meanwhile Billington has written far and away the most authoritative critique of Pinter's work so far. Though occasionally repetitive, it is beautifully written; time and again his insight, sensitivity and wide frame of theatrical reference sheds new understanding on the most difficult plays. The pity is that it will be read largely by those who already admire Pinter, rather than those who still find him pretentious or obscure. But the recent The knowledge of their origins does not demystify the plays; spate of revivals suggests that the doubters are in retreat – for it only increases one's admiration for the way Pinter transmutes my money he already ranks with Ibsen and Chekhov.



Pinter: intense male comradeship disturbed by sexual rivalry

PHOTOGRAPH: NIGEL PARRY/KATZ

Falling off the bottom line

E. Jane Dickson enjoys an embroidered tale of fashion and fortune

Fighting Fashion by Helen Storey, Faber, £12.99

n 1995, when the designer Helen Storey sent her models down the catwalk with bare bums, it was the most talked about collection since the legendary Emperor's new look. The international fashion establishment sprayed superlatives. The tabloids couldn't believe their luck. Desmond Morris was wheeled on to explain the cultural relevance of the buttock and John Major made an uncharacteristically checky showing in cartoons. Three weeks after her succès de scandale. Storey, hailed on all sides as the decade's most original fashion talent, was on the dole. Fightautobiographical account of

There is a strong sense of

release in Fighting Fashion, as if Storey sat down to write one day, just to sort things out in her head, and found herself Autobiography as therapy is

a doleful prospect for the reader, and Storey's reflections on her early life, complete with diligent acknowledgement of best friends from the age of five, are sometimes surplus to requirements. The daughter of the playwright and novelist, David Storey, talent, was on the dole. Fighting Fashion, the designer's she conjures up the liberal Bohemia of the 1960s and 70s with the deadpan cool of an her career, is a commendably unimpressed teenager but the

plicated relationship of rags of remembered excitement, appeared in the passenger seat of her dad's Mini, breaks through. Hampstead Comprehensive was a daily gaunt- ness of the cancer ward, let to be run, a place which smelt of pencil sharpenings and feet", where boys lay in wait to flick at girls' breasts with their rulers, but the nights were for clubbing and rollerskating home from Shagara-mas with six hours-worth of make up running down her face and the wind in her dayglo hair was Storey's first intimation of glamour. Later, as a fashion graduate

on work experience with Valentino in Rome, Storey was properly inducted into the mysteries of haute couture and she describes the quasimystic processes of the fashion industry with a kind of appalled reverence: "There is a force in fashion, at the very top level, that invents it's own manners, sensitivity, standards and rules. They bear no relation to the real world. Untouched by recession, they went imchallenged."

For Storey, however, the real world would constantly disrupt and indeed define her creativity, and as she acknowledges, "to express an instinct outside the arena of clothes on a catwalk is a dangerous thing, or if not dangerous, then pointless." In the final annus horribilis leading up to insolvency she nursed her huswere sketched at his bedside: "Having a pen in my hand

dry-eyed analysis of the com- occasional, irresistible flasb feeling nothing for them I was like the day Elizabeth Taylor barometer of my feelings was registered through a lack of spontaneity to cloth." It is doubtless the hellish-

> evoked in a chapter that is properly painful to read, that allows Storey to maintain her apparently dispassionate view of her professional nemesis. This is not a woman innured to fashion fever - she can write with absolute unselfconsiousness about her "Journey of challenging the expected use of trims", but she has ultimately succeeded in channelling creative energy into an ably concerted campaign for better "fashion management." In an industry fuelled by outsized egos, she is generously concerned that others should profit from her unfortunate experience. "It should be accepted that designers should not be running the day to day, or for that matter any other area of the business other than design." Fighting Fushion is required reading for anyone in, or hop-

ing to enter the fashion industry. As a general interest autobiography it is less appealing. Storey's indiosycratic style can at times verge on the incomprehensible. The assertion that "The word 'remission' its brickwork" is rather more arresting then enlightening, and there are plenty of these teasers sprinkled through the band, the architect Ron narrative. Storey's extraordi-Brinkers through a brain nary artistry is there to see in tumour; designs for the the beautifully produced phospring/summer collection tos of the collections, but she is not a writer, and this is not a writer's book. And why made me feel normal, but I should it be? No one ever couldn't relate to the fabrics, expected Plaubert to chal-I couldn't feel them, and in lenge the use of trims.

Notes on a smallish peninsula

Jan Morris is full of admiration for a bold new history of Europe

A History of Europe by Norman Davies, Oxford University Press, £25

with a vengeance, in the sense that it employs devices of bistoriography unthinkable to traditional academe. Norman Davies describes it as "a total history of all Europe in every period". and he talks of it in photographic terms - zooms, telephotos, wide-angle snapshots. Its narrative of 1,300 pages is interrupted by 300 asides which he calls capsules, and supplemented by appendices covering matters as general as European Cultural Circles, as exact as The Jagiellonian Realm up to 1572. I enormously enjoyed the whole display, learnt a vast amount from it (I had never heard of the Jagiellonian Realm), and were it not for its bulk would have read the whole of it happily in my bath. The book is recognizably

akin to Felipe Fernandez-Armesto's dazzling Millen-nium, which is similarly cybernetic and disarmingly selfsatisfied. It reminded me too of Braudel's Mediterranean histories, of Claudio Magris' Danube and of Neal Ascherson's Black Sea. But it is distantly related to OUP's last single-volume history of Europe, written by T.L. Plun-kett and R.B. Mowat in 1927: it is an odd feeling in fact to peel off this volume's shiny acket and discover the Oxford binding of simple blue and gold, unchanged since the days when Europe was the

heart of the world. Actually I still think it is, but one of the great changes between the old-type histories and the new is the abandonment of Eurocentricism. As even I recognize, Europe is no more than a smallish peninsular on the flank of Asia, and the globe does not after all

his is a modern history revolve around it. Few of us now get a classical education. Relatively few of us are Christian. We look at Europe through different eyes from those of our grandparents, and it has fallen to Davies to re-define for our generation what Europe really is at the end of the 20th century. He also corrects some more

> an authority on Polish history, he has easily done away with the old view of Europe as being generically divided between east and west, and in fact allows its borders to spill over into Russia. He resolutely sets his face against over-specialisation, pernicious political correctness, and the petty rivalries which so often divide the energies of academic historians. Sentiments as well as realities enrich his view of Europe, he is as concerned with the actions of famous men as he is with the progress of humble families. His kind of history is, as he says himself, rather like that theoretical polygon by which Archimedes calculated the ratio between the diameter and the circumference of a circle: the more sides he gave his polygon, the nearer a circle it would be, and similarly the more facets a historical narrative possesses, the more likely it is to approach the

There are snags to this prismatic approach, but they are more literary than historiographical. It is hard to keep up the grand flow of a narrative when it is, so to speak, polygonal. Those capsules keep getting in the way - physically, because they sometimes block an entire page, intellectually because they are often irrelevant to the immediate argument. It is ironic, too, that so eclectic exuberance? The ori-

hampered by one of the most unhelpful systems of footnotes imaginable: the chanter notes are listed only by chapter number, making them maddeningly difficult to find, and there are separately listed notes to those 300 capsules - enough to make the most appreciative reader drop the thing with a curse into the bath water. The maps are irritating too, often printed with west at the top, and just occasionally 1 was jarred by Davies' lapses into exhibitionism, rather in the

A.J.P. Taylor style.
That said, Davies' History of Europe, is a noble monument of scholarship, and all the more noble because it is so full of surprise and feeling: the publishers are surely justified in claiming it to be "one of the most important and illuminating history books ever to be published by Oxford." The tremendous range of its story is matched by its liberal attention to details tragic and comic, mundane and sublime. There are superb assessments of vastly daunting subjects, like the Thirty Years War or the Renaissance. There are steady assessments of the state of contemporary Europe. For one of my views Davies is perhaps a little too intolerant of anything approaching the Communistic: but that is partly because he is anxious to correct what he calls the Allied Version of post-war

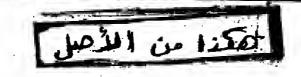
European history.
Who can complain about a book which not only gives a thorough, more or less conventional account of the continent's story, Black Death, Holy Roman Empire, Hundred Years' War, Napoleon, Industrial Revolution and all, but illuminates it with such

intelligent a book should be gin of the necktie, biblical allusions of Chernobyl, cocking a snook as a pan-European gesture, prehistoric foods, condoms, famous European last words - such are a handful of the topics history of Europe. His choice of illustrations,

or at least their captioning. seems to me too whimsical to be satisfying, but his repeated use of music is masterly. Sometimes with printed extracts from scores, he uses music as a catalyst, distilling the moods and aspirations of the Europe of its time, and hringing to the page some of the emotions of its geniuses, and I suspect of his own. For it is an emotional book in many ways, and there is noth-ing clinical or lofty about its attitudes. Davies even tells us what kind of car Archduke in, when they shot him at Sarajevo in 1914 (a 28 horse-Franz Ferdinand was driving power Graf and Stift, four And for some readers in

1996 it will be a liberating work. It is hardly revisionist history, but it is not just a history of the States and Powers. nor simply of the policy-makers or the common man. It takes into account all the inbetweens, the minority peoples, the nations without statehood whose existence has been overshadowed by the terrible comings and goings of history, and who see glimmers of hone in the prospect of a united Europe. Professor Davies is not a Davies for nothing. He (or his publishers) may not be able to spell hwyl, but whu would expect to find, in a total & history of all Europe, a reference to the native parliament held at Machynileth, Wales, in





The Quiet American

(1955)by Graham Greene

Plot: Set in Vietnam during the French occupation, the

around the murder of Alden

Pyle "the Quiet American".

He works for the Economic

Aid Mission. At once innocent, naive and ignorant he helieves religiously in the American way of democracy: as a result he is entangled in

guerilla politics, hacking the terrorist General The against

the French. Pyle also falls for Fowler's girlfriend Phuong (Phoenix). He offers her the

chance of marriage. Even though Fowler's distaste for Pyle intensifies, be finds him-self dragged into the Ameri-

can's political conspiracies. A bomb explodes in a café causing injury and death. Fowler

nows that Pyle was involved

be stopped, betrays him. Pyle

is killed with a rusty hayonet.

The crime is investigated by

Vigot, a vigilant detective

familiar with Pascal, Phuone returns to Fowler. He cannot

decide whether his act of

hetrayal was motivated by

political necessity or personal

Theme: "This is the patent age

of new inventions for killing

bodies for saving souls, all propagated with the best

intentions." The epigraph is

taken from Byron. In a fallen

world, Pyle's heartless idealism

is as evil as Fowler's narcotic

detachment. Only Vigot, whose work is a "calling", can

have any chance of salvation.

Style: Despite the exotic loca-

tion, the writing is grainy and monochrome, like old film.

Here is a world where nobody

belongs and "nothing is fabu-

ashes. The prose can match

the pace of a popular thriller.

Chief strengths: The clearest and most convincing analysis of the American involvement

in Vietnam. No other writer

conveys the shifting effects of

bad conscience with such pre-

anthropy and disillusionment

sometimes crumbles into car-

icature: the gloomy phases are

so pat they turn mechanical. Even Morse doesn't read Pas-

What they thought of it then:

cision and enthusiasm.

novel is narrated by Thomas Fowler, a middle-aged English journalist. The action circles

Secret life of knobs and pillys

Philip Hoare does a little muck-raking on our plant life

Flora Britannica by Richard Mabey, Sinclair Stevenson, £30

ake a suburban train out of any city or town, put down your paper and pay some attention to that green stuff at the side of the tracks. Britain's history in plants is passing you by, a bio-diverse record of human habitation: the ubiquitous vivid purple of rosebay willow herb, named fireweed because it was thrown up by the great 19th century rail network, the equally common buddleia, the butterfly bush, its tenacity in seemingly soil-less vertical cracks a reminder of its origins in the mountains of China; the sudden burst of scarlet poppies germinated from newlydisinterred seed, an echo of Flanders fields where the more deadly machinations of man enabled them to bloom. Wild plants, by definition, are everywhere: only yards from a south London station last week I saw. clumps of brown velvet bulrushes as rural as you like, albeit decoratively surrounded by Tennents Super beer cans.

With its "urban commons" and modern folklore, Richard Mahey's book is no update of the Diary of an Edwardian Country Lady. "When wild flowers are dragged willy-nilly into shampoo advertisements and state rituals, maybe it is time to ask whether the particular plants themselves have any meaning left for us, or wbether they have become purely notional, registers of a fashionably Green 'life style'." Drawing on his own researches and contributions

is a botanical wax pop, a green Mass Observation: from the primeval horsetails, Equisciaceae, briskly updated as "Lego plants" (pull 'em apart and put 'em back together again) to the tragedy of the eims, doomed to regenerate as suckers only for Dutch Elm disease to strike again as they reach maturity, the fungus Ceratocystis ulmi severing their water supply and killing them through

The cycles of life and death and sex are as dramatic in botany as in the rest of creation and like any potential best seller Flora Britannica has a good smattering of sex. Natural nomenclature is phallicentric enough to rival Mapplethorpe: dog's cock, priest's pilly and cuckoo pint (pint being short for pintle or penis) exhibit a rural preoccupation with matters genital. One informant tells Mabey that the youthful fishermen of the Isle of Man still used, in the 1930s, the milky sap of the sun spurge Euphorbia heliscopia to "get themselves excited" - hence its indelicate local name, "big knobs"; or "Saturday night pepper". Elsewbere we are told that the yellow flowers of the sweet chestnut smell distinctly of semen and that the thick furry grey leaves of the great mulicin give rise to its modern appellation, the "Andrex plant". Less intimate cleansing may be bad from the common nettle, which gypsies grasp by the stem and pull through work -smeared hands; the from the plant-aware public, Mahey's book effect is also supposed to prevent against



A rural preoccupation with matters genital: Lords-and-ladies or Cuckoo pint

arthritis. The Romans used nettles in "therapeutic self-flagellation" to warm up the circulatory system in our chilly climate and in the First World War the Germans wove them into cloth. And here's a useful tip from a Devon boy on how to eat the raw leaves: "The trick is to roll them up in a special way with the tongue, making sure there is plenty of saliva to coat them.

There are elegant essays on significant trees such as yews, bollies, elms and oaks; ancient inhahitants of our land whose heartwood-decayed trunks resemble "a wooden cave system more than a tree." Mabey deftly evokes the atmosphere of plants with a particular taste for the macabre: the Gothic tracery of ivy, the surreal weirdness of the giant bogweed; the sinister, malodorous henhane which supplied Dr Crippen with the means to his poisonous ends. A fig tree grows out of a Wat-ford grave, "originated in a snack taken by the unfortunate occupant." His use of art, covered, but foraging druggies will be dis- they see the evil of their tarmac ways.

literature and allusion is illuminating: Ruskin on the field poppy as "painted glass; it never glows so brightly as when the sun shines through it." But Mabey is eminently able to match such poetry, describing the delicate beauty of the hound's tongue, its flowers a "colour whose tone is more like that of dyed fabric - worn purple velvet, perhaps - than a hloom. The 17th-century herbalist John Pechey described them as 'sordid red'.'

Inevitably, folk tales abound in Mabey's account, but with startlingly modern correlations, vividly illustrated by a chap who has a nasty brush with a chain-saw. In an episode straight out of Casualty, the intrepid victim cycles four miles to a comfreyplenty place, digs up some of the plant root and scrapes it into a thick paste which sets hard and eventually drops off, leaving our hero with a "surprisingly small scar". The intoxicating properties of plants are well

appointed: opium poppies just don't make enough latex in our climate and legally field-grown cannabis hasn't got the THC to get you high. In one anecdote, the book describes a police raid on a secondary school where they confiscated a horse chestnut sapling, confusing its linger-like leaves for those of Cannabis sativa.

If you want to know what Berkshire schoolchildren use for itching powder (crushed plane seeds) or what cured George III's insomnia (hops), the details are all here, exquisitely illustrated and elegantly edited. But the cumulative effect of this body of knowledge is ultimately humhling: less about what use we can put plants to than the intrinsic sanctity of nature itself, In the habital unfriendly late 20th century, this can no longer be merely a moot poinl: and those who would seek to plough through the water meadows of Salishury should be force fed Flora Britannica until

Corresponding talents

Peter Parker examines a friendship that thrived on separation

The Letters of Nancy Mitford and Evelyn Waugh edited by Charlotte Mosley, Hodder, £25

In England it was deemed a friends at all. In 1929, success. Evelyn Waugh thought the book "vigorous" within a year of their and the Tablet gave its blessing. The Americans were narked. Newsweek thought the whole enterprise an act of spite, peretrated because Greene had suffered from visa trouble. What we think of it now: Greene's reputation lurched hadly after his death. He was dismissed as a Thirties dinosaur who had never recovered from the obsessions of his schooldays. Nevertheless, all his novels remain in print and they continue to sell.

Responsible for: The fascination with hetrayal which haunts the works of Le Carré and Deighton. Conversely Greene's pre-occupation with the intricacies of Catholic theology has not proven fertile ground for the contemporary

closely involved in the first major crisis of Waugh's life when her chaperonage of his first wife proved insufficiently vigilant to prevent She-Evelyn embarking on an affair while He-Evelyn was in the country writing Vile Bodies. Their friendship received another setback in 1933, when Mitford married Peter Rodd, a charming but incorrigibly adulterous wastrel, whom Waugh looked to profit by experience, same could not be said of Mitford fell out of this either Waugh or Mitford, disastrous marriage into the arms of another energetic womaniser, Colonel Gaston Palewski, whom,

Evelyn Waugh were

t is surprising that to his native France at the amorous adventures, and erated by these differing like theology." Mitford with your creator. Try & Nancy Mitford and end of the war. But the the strain they put upon views. Waugh-Mitford friendship worked best when they were apart. It meeting. Mitford was resulted in some 500 letters, almost every one of which is published in this As correspondents they have two distinct

advantages: they had a great many friends in common, and they held. widely divergent beliefs. When Waugh, who had settled in Gloucestershire, asked Cyril Connolly to supply him with London gossip, Connolly replied stiffly that he "did not regard the sufferings upon with profound dis- of his fellow men as the taste. Apparently unable subject of humour". The and many of the funniest letters describe (with baroque embellishment) the misfortunes of mutual acquaintances - notably to Waugh's incredulous dismay, she followed back Connolly himself, whose

his bealth and finances. are an unceasing source of merriment. Similar exaggeration is seen in the adversarial positions each took up on opposite sides of the Channel Mitford adored France and constantly harped on its superiority in every way to England. The anglomaniac Waugh insisted that he loathed the place. A would-be Tory squire, he affected to believe that Mitford was a rabid communist, or at the very least someone who had worked for the triumph of socialism in England only to flee its consequences. (Even Diana Mosley, who had been interned during the war as a fascist, refused to regard her sister's politics as anything other than "synthetic cochineal".) Much of the energy of the correspondence is gen-

Mitford's letters outnumber Waugh's by about one third. Her style is almost identical with (could it have suggested?) that of the young lady of leisure" whose excitedly semi-literate letters form the narrative of Waugh's 1932 story "Cruise". Charlotte Mosley has added apostrophes, correctedspelling and tidied up punctuation "where necessary to the sense", and while this detracts somewhat from the reader's sense of Mitford's pellmell reportage, one can still see why Waugh spent so much time playing the schoolmaster. The punctuation is pinable," he wrote of a manuscript she had submitted to his scrutiny, "but it never becomes unintelligible so I just shouldn't try. It is

gion right, but this proved difficult with someone as finicking as Waugh. His letter of rebuke over an article in which she innocently misrepresented the cause of a priest's departure from the church opened "My dear Nancy" rather than the customary "Darling Nancy", continued with a lecture on Catholic procedure, and concluded by warning her off writing about the church at all: Your intrusions into this strange world are always fatu-

ous." Mitford was quite capable of standing up to this sort of bullying nonsense. "Don't start My Dear Nancy I don't like it," she replied by return (an example, incidentally, of the creative power of bad punctuation). "I can't clearly not your subject - tioning anything to do bery and schadenfreude

created me." She concluded. "I don't defend my inaccuracies but it's

your TONE that nettles me." And no wonder. Her next communication wickedly informed Waugh that two priests had written to her on the subject and she was "Surprised by the illiterate look of these postcards you would say an electrician, or seed merchant". In one celebrated article for the Sunday Times she compared Rome with "a village, with its one post office, one railway station and life centred round the vicarage." These were so clearly leases that not even the cantankerous Waugh could take offence.

There is plenty in these letters to cause apoplexy agree that I must be amongst the serious debarred from ever men- minded. Frivolity, snob-

cally, Wynyard Brown's A

On the upside, we get

some wonderful exam-

ples of Ned's quixotic

ebullience, the unbeliev-

able information that

Anne Ziegler and Web-

ster Booth once starred in

the South African Who's

Afraid of Virginia Woolf,

Question of Fact.

abound along with disparaging references to all races and creeds (including the English). Much of this is for effect and, as Mosley notes, these letters "were written to amuse, distract or tease". "Are you shricking?"

Waugh after relaying some particularly choice anecdote. Well, not exactly - though the book is certainly enjoyable and in places very funny indeed. One senses, however, that Waugh and Mitford were shricking. These are the letters of people who were not terribly happy. Although Mitford made light of it. her one-sided romance with Palewski caused her considerable unhappiness, while Waugh's disillusionment with the world, though comically exaggerated, was genuine enough. "You still have the gift of seeing people as funny which I lost somewhere in the highlands of Scotland circa 1943," he wrote despondently towards the end of 1950. This book provides substantial evidence to the contrary, but one's final impression is of two people caring for each other's entertainment on the edge of an abyss.

the West End in the Inte 90s. Like Agate's Egos, the Sherrin diaries deserve to run into at least nine or ten volumes, so full are they of great gossip and surprising rev-

> "feasting with panthers"
> (as Wilde always described his gay encounters) but he is closer to Chips Channon than Alan Clark in his private priorities. A good party. a good play, a good meal and only then, perhaps, a

elation: Ned here outs

himself with commend-

ably casual references to

bit of the other. It would have taken most of us five years to get through a diary like this and remain as buoy-Sherrin is 65 and comes from a farm in Somerset. almost the only facts you

FAIRY Mitford would ask Graham Joyce "A modern parable of loss

THE

TOOTH

and maturity ... deft, canny and highly readable"

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"Brilliantly original" **Sunday Times**

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Yesterday the Audiobook Oscars were awarded at the unnual Talkies award, Amongst the winners the following were to be found: Gaskell's Wines and Daugluers, read by Prunella Scales; Doyle's The Woman Who Walked into Doors, read by Ger Ryan; Harris's Enigma, read by Stephen Thorne; Roy Castle's Now and Then; read by Bernard Cribbin; A A Milne's The House at Proh Comer, read by Alan Bennett; Dirk Maggs Independence Den UK, for its superb production; Dickens's Great Expectations, read in ridgement by Anton Lesser, And Hughes The Inm Woman read by the author. Reader of the Year was Juliet Stevenson.

Christina Hardyment

usual this Christmas shop without stumbling memorial correspondent. over bits of Ned Sherrin: no less than five books are new; his first novel, out this month alone, of and a diary of 1996. The which three need not novel, Scratch an Actor, detain us long - two ("and you'll find an paperback reprints of his actress" is the other half recent anthologies, an of that Dorothy Parker Oxford Book of Humor-

t is going to be still tion of memorial service more difficult than readings chosen and introduced by Sherrin in to walk into any book- his role as The Oldie's The other two books

Scratch an Actor by Ned Sherrin, Sinclair Stevenson, £15.99 Sherrin's Year by Ned Sherrin, Virgin, £16.99

quotation) is a backstage ous Quotations (£7.99) chronicle set in Coronaand Theatrical Anecdotes tion Year, full of showbiz (Virgin, £7.99), plus gossip for which a fic-Remembrance (Michael tional background has Remembrance (Michael tional background has gud and many other Joseph, £17.50), a collection been chosen as Sherrin's Shaftesbury Avenue fig-

libel suits. : But let's not forget that

Shades of the green room

Sheridan Morley revels in a dose of theatrical gossip

Sherrin's first great partner, Caryl Brahms, gave him a sharp training in An Ideal Husband. the art of the comic theatrical novel and, 40 years later, her master-class has paid off. Sherrin bas a precise wit and an invaluable green room recall: the ghosts of the Redgraves (notably Sir Michael's father Roy) and the shadows of Giel-

bover about this story of an actor-manager trying

tion of memorial service only alternative to the ures from the Fifties about the most accurate. to cobble together a of stage stories, is some-musical out of Wilde's times a little less meticu-

But Scratch An Actor is more than just a fictional recycling of green room gossip: Sberrin is sharp enough to come up with a plot all his own, only using other people's halftold tales when they genumely fit his narrative. All in all, this is one of the

His diary, surprisingly for so careful a chronicler lous; some appalling

proof reading gives us mis-spellings of Noel Willman, Benn Levy and George Stiles and a lengthy story about Paul Scoffield and Gladys and a daily log of foot-Cooper in The Holly & lights, first nights and The low might work better if either of them had ever best comic novels of the or separately: the play in rian trying to assess what won't discover in this theatre I've read, and just question here was, ironi- it was like to be around revealing chronicle.

appeared in it, together 21st-century social histo-

of infinite value to any

other frolics which will be

Rosaries and ovaries

Carol Birch reads a harrowing tale of rural Irish angst

Down by the River by Edna O'Brien, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £15.99

"scutty little sheep farmer" in his decrepit mountain home wietds a nicotined mohile phone beneath a picture of the Pope. Crazed women launch into Old Testament rants and young girls, giggly in the locked fastness of an adolescent hedroom, shave their pubic hairs at the convent which has become and read about orgasms. "Rosaries and ovaries", as a local doctor wryly comments, "I don't know which does the most damage to this country." It is of course, modern rurat Ireland bizarre and schizoid as ever in Edna O'Brien's latest novel. "In the sockets of the eyes different densities of dread," hroods the knotty prose, "They know without knowing." In this dark and harrowing tale, the anti-abortion harpies who keep appalling truth is concealed like watch over the established preg-

craven universe. Following her mother's death from cancer, Mary becomes pregnant and runs away to England to get an abortion. She is brought back amid a dreadful blaze the place is allowed to intrude of publicity, made a ward of court and, refusing to implicate her father, forced to continue with the pregnancy. Politicians and lawyers discuss her case, as does the general public through the medium of radio phone-ins to which the hapless child, like the fox tossed about by the pack, listens in horror.

The book heaves with the imagery of corruption. An encounter with a ladybird, a creature prey to parasitic infestation, is a reminder that even closeness has its dangers: "I'll make a hole in your armour and then I'll eat you from inside," says Sister Aquinas a kind of sanctuary to the child

Mary.
This in turn reminds us of the cancer that is slowly and painfully destroying her mother, and is later ecboed in the baby itself. An alien within, a creature of near borror, it is identified variously with the disease, with lies, and, grotesquely, with a malevolent suicidal fish forced upon Mary as a pet by the warms under a stone.

The story is familiar. Mary MacNamara, a young girl of 14 or so, is sexually ahused by her father, James, a pathetic and manipulative man whose needy nature both attracts and repels the daughter who has become the centre of his crayen universe. Following her

which spawned it. What a joyless Ireland this is that we are sbown. Nothing of the vigour and bumour and richness of

upon the pervading gloom.

Despite the modernity and distinctiveoess of Edna O'Brien's voice, Down By The River is part of a particular mythologising vein that runs through Irish writing. It is there in the dense Joycean lan-



Edna O'Brien: the pervading gloom of a joyless Ireland PHOTOGRAPH: HARRIS/THE TIMES/REX

passages describing the hard, beautiful landscape, and in the charac-We are dealing with archetypes.

Here the lonely Irish hard, there tbe chorus of wailing women. As for Mary - "She's every woman" in the words of a popular song that crops up more thao ooce, aod as such becomes so much a symbol that we lose ber. Like the anonymous women we read about in the newspapers, we engage with ber situation rather than her individ-

point of the book. No-one in all the like a baby on his wife and Mary, hubbub of conflicting voices sees the real buman being at the centre of this nightmare, and neither do we. Mary is the invisible eye of the storm, the suffering innocent destroyed by bigotry, a very Irish archetype.

Irooically, we get to know ber father far better. "A very beated man says a neighbour", hut this is something of a eupbemism. A true. The hidden blights - cancer, terrifying mixture of weakness a baby - are nothing to the soul's guage ("O sun. O brazeo egg-yolk situatioo rather than her individant batross...") in the fine lyrical uality. This, in fact, is precisely the loneliness, rages at fate, depends within.

and blusters like the bully he is. His desperate yearning for his daughter is only surpassed by the bottomless pit of his own self-pity And because he is more real than Mary, it seems a strange injustice when we come to realise that he, in fact, is the tragic figure of the book. For Mary will survive - at the end ber voice risen strong and

Young, gifted and worrying about the footie

Helen Stevenson reads a boys' own tale of frogs in the tandoori and toe nails in the tea

Time for Bed by David Baddiel, Little. Brown, £14.99

f I'm interested in foothall and I love funny men, by rights I ought at least not to dislike David Baddiel, And if I like David Baddiel. I ought to be just crazy ahout Gahriel Jacoby, who is standing in for David Baddiel here, hecause this is a novel and not a He doesn't have a joh at the start comedy routine. You know that, of the novel, and makes the occabecause it comes between covers sional trip to the job centre to sign and costs £14.99. Otherwise it's on, until he gets his arm twisted to much the same, except there is no write a trendy sports column for a infectinus laughier here, nn peer pressure to giggle and identify. A ble of deep felt emotions towards reader is harder to please than a member of an audience.

One of the conceits of the new hloke persona of which David in his trousers, but his compassion Baddiel, among others, has and sensitivity do not impede on hecome the spokesman, is a deep rooted insecurity about the world, his own. An employee in the joh women, and his team's chances of league success, all wrapped up in sadness and hopelessness; the only the ironic hashfulness of the man who is just lucid enough to recog- member of the lahouring classes nise that what he's really worried reads as follows: "I'm not sure it's about is whether he's any good in possible for the labouring classes bed. Here's the straight answer: to consume any other heverage eral times, I read it ironically, and except occasionally to a slight and subtle character.

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this much can't be. Gabriel is Jewish, insomniac, anxious to be seen to be educated

in spite of himself, nervous, sentimental, in love with his half-brother's sister Alice, who is hlack. ble of deep felt emotions towards women, which are meant to make us feel he is as enlightened, somewhere in his heart, as be is priapic his conception of the world outside centre is ridiculed for his ordinary real reference in the novel to a



(than tea), just as it seems to be part of the social contract they have struck with us bourgeois that, as they mend things in our houses, we must make them endless cups of the stuff." I read this sentence sev-

straight, I read it post-ironically and I read it critically, and I still could not think how it had crept into a novel by one of Britain's major comedians. I could phrase that indirect question differently, of course.

I don't ask that men grow up to be serious. It's just a hit dull if the jokes remain the same 15 years on. For a woman, the football has to just how long you hang on about it. At times there was even a distinctly suh-Wodehousian tone, circumlocution being the last refuge of the man who isn't sure be's made a joke: "Had Dr Johnson been there at that point he would bave noted my expression, got ont his quill, opened his enormous compendium and completely rewritten his definition of the word 'blankly'."

smile. There are some good jokes, a lot of bad ones, a sort of plot, an extended description of anal sex, a flatmate relationship gone wrong, frogs in the tandoori and toe nails in the tea, the occasional striking aperçu, a Jewish funeral and a lot of presuppositions about the kind of things graduates think are funny.

The problem is that in this kind of genre humour, there is no be good and the jokes have to he funny. It's quality that counts, not types. Humour does depend on types, to a certain extent. But surely in a novel they need to be flexed and modulated to create character, otherwise you end up boring your reader. David Baddiel must know this already. Contrasting two female characters, one of whom corresponds to his platonic ideal of womanhood (ie she knows everything about football) and the other who doesn't (ie she knows nothing about football) A good read? Maybe. I wasn't be eventually allows the latter to bored, but I wasn't moved either, emerge as the more interesting

Paperbacks



By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

by Evangeline Bruce (Phoenix, £9.99) Subtitled "An Improbable Marriage" (not least because Josephine preferred tall men), this tremendous work is a domestic drama played out on a world stage. As a child in Martinique, Josephine displayed an "indolence...remarkable even in that climate", yet she married one of the world's great men of action. Though always "taking the path of least resistance", she led a life of scarcely credible eventfulness, briefly becoming Empress (her love of fashion and

may bring modern

Napoleon & Josephine

parallels to mind) before being discarded by her charmless

Mind Readings: Writers' Journeys **Through Mental States** edited by Sara Dunn. Blake Morrison and Micbele Roberts (Minerva, £7.99) Depressioo is the writer's occupational hazard, and this collection of essays, poems, stories and confessions by wellknown authors published to mark the 50th anniversary of the mental health charity. Mind - explores the dark side of the psycbe profligacy with money from a myriad of

different angles. High-(or if you prefer, low-) lights include Rosie Boycott laying bare her in praise of Prozac and Wendy Cope's hilarious analysis of her relationship with her shrink.

Darwin's Dangerous Idea by Daniel C Dennett (Penguin, £9.99) Endlessly stimulating, this extended advocacy of full-blown Darwinism ("the best single idea anyone has ever had") is a glorious tour de force. Utilising analogies ranging from Borges' Library of Babel to the use of spandrels in

incluctable fact that Darwin explained the world - and everything discovered since What we hypothesise as God is "something dogged and mindless". Dennett's lucid exegesis of this "dangerous idea"

is uncompromising and

revelatory.

architecture, Dennet

hammers home the

Junk Mail by Will Self (Penguin, £7.99) Reading one article by Will Self can be exhilarating, hut a whole book of them seems rather too much of a good thing. Cool and pseudy by turns, his prose crackles with wit one minnte and irritates the next. Nearly half the pieces in this collection of journalism are about drug abuse ~ gritty reportage rather than flights of philosophical

fancy - but other

subjects range from the author's lucuhracions on his penis to interviews with Damien Hirst and J G Ballard.

Looking for George by

Helena Drysdale (Picador, £6.99) As a student in 1979, Drysdale had a dangerous fling with an Orthodox priest in Romania. În subsequent letters, George risked voicing his hatred of the Ceausescu regime and asked Drysdale to marry him so he could fiee. Suddenly, he ceased to write. Prompted by guilt, she returned to Romania in the aftermath of the 1989 revolution only to discover that George had died, a political prisoner in a mental hospital. Drysdale's quest has resulted in a brooding work of undeniable passion.

E-mailing the yeti

Nick Wroe treks after the abominable snowman

Esau by Philip Kerr, Chatto, £15.99

Philip Kerr's seventh novel. opens with Jack Furness, Rhodes Scholar and mountaineer, finding a skull
while climbing in the Himalayas.
He gives it to his ex-girifriend, Dr
Stella ("just call me Swift") Swift, who wastes no time in getting her colleagues to sign confidentiality waivers before organising an expedition to Nepal to investigate. The skull is abnormally young and Swift, a paleoanthropologist whose tenure review is imminent, knows a main chance when she sees one.

So far so predictable and we're all ready for an Indiana Jonestype caper featuring the abominable snowman with additional spice courtesy of an India/Pakistan nuclear stand-off and the infiltration of the expedition by an unhinged CIA operative. But Kerr usually gives more than straight up and down thrillers. While his books are popular and get sold to film companies for enormous amounts of money, he also deals seriously with science and technology and enthusiastically engages with ethical and philosophical issues. Esau typifies this in that amongst the hi-jinx in the snow, Kerr takes on the higgest theme of all – the origin of species.

We learn that humans and chimps share 98.4% of their DNA; that is closer than a chimp is to a gorilla. When we come across yetis in the Himalayas we find that they share over 99% of their DNA with humans and to this reader at least, the point that they are just like us is well made. The description of a yeti birth. the infant being delivered by forceps adapted from two spoons, being eerily reminisceot of events personally witnessed at close quarters in Lewisham hospital

only a couple of years ago. That said, it's oot all David Attenborough and episiotomies and the reader is quickly brought up to iotellectual speed so as to appreciate properly the importance of this discovery of a

oew species of man. We are told about the Piltdown Man scam (dodgy amateur archaeologist fused a human cranium to an orang-utan's jaw to fool the scientific establishment in 1912), the history and theory of radiocarbon dating (the standard textbook is Sacher's

Stratigraphic Geology and Relative Age Measurement) and that the tripod-mounted Canon EOS 5 is the paleoanthropologist's camera of choice, especially when used with Fuji Reals film.

I have no idea if any of the above is true but it sounds authentic which is good euough. Sadly the same can't always be said of the dialogue. Swift is prone to make statements such as, "Electron Spin Resonance, that's where you measure the energy of the electrons trapped in the denial enamel." to which the inevitable rejoinder is, " 'Yeah. You obtain a date for the material from the ratio between

that and the trapping rate."

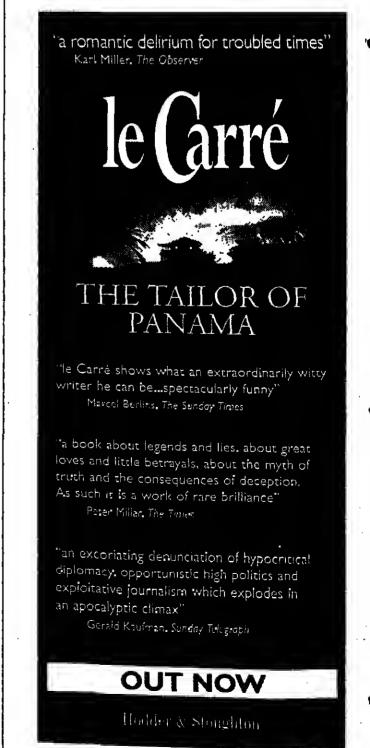
But after leaving the lab for the mountains the story skips along. fluently and the episodes high above the snow-line are more compulsively page-turning and the conjunction of the unspoilt environment with the explorer's hi-tech kir is stylishly handled. The silent arrival of c-mails soon becomes as sinister as the more. conventional all-action

skulduggery.

Kerr has structured his story
well, effectively underpinning the
narrative with wider scientific and philosophical concerns. As the origins of the human race are uncovered so the world comes closer to nuclear Armageddon. The wavering atheism of a scientist early in the book is mirrored by the intervention of a benign swami towards the end. Possibly with an eye 10 a suitably monumental film score, the scientist's crisis of faith is played out to a soundtrack of Haydn's Creation. Meanwhile the swami has to make do with sounding like Prince Charles on a bad day, muttering about how "a leaf does not turn brown and die without the whole tree knowing".

Esau has already been sold to Disney and will be screened in

three years time. While Jack Furness may have referred dismissively to "abominable snowman bullshit" early in the book, Dr Swift, like Kerr, prohably has her finger closer to the popular pulse with her assertion that "the public's appetite for popular science meant that there was a new theory about Man and his origins every week". Let's hape for Kerr's sake the public's appetite is still as voracious in 1999.



travel & outdoors

Piste through the small print: skiing..13 Holland by bus and by bicycle16/17 Country walk......18



Photograph: Brian Harris

Capital games

Simon Calder gets on the tourist circuit in Washington DC

through the city, prompting the people to set their collars a notch or two higher against the cold - and their fellow citizens. "Don't rush me!" pleads the homeless man, clutching a plastic cup on one

nf the grubbier street corners. "One donation at a time, please." In the capital of the world's sole superpower, even the down-and-outs possess a politician's slick patter. The best time to visit Washington

DC is highly specific: October, in years that are divisible by four. The year is crucial because the pulse in this most competitive of cities races when presidential and congressional elections take place in the same year, the month is critical because everything is auspicious for the tourist, political or not. This month, a swathe of Cnnl Cana-

dian (as the TV forecasters call it) swept into town early, bringing the first frosts. So the last few casual visitors of the summer have shivered back to Illinois and Iowa, leaving a city beautifully Acxposed beneath sharp, clear skies. And the chill has tripped the magical maple mechanism that inflames the woodland benignly fringing Washington DC.

Those initials hint at the thorough artificiality of the American capital. The District of Columbia is bounded by an arbitrary diamond inscribed half way down the US east coast, punched out of the map where Maryland and Virginia muet. It began life as a messy compromise, perched on a swampy piece of land on the cusp of North and South spheres of influence.

Geometrically and politically, its centre is a large white house. The lower left-hand corner of DC has been ripped iway, a result of the state of Virginia clawing back its territory in the middle of the last century. Into this crazy diamond has been decanted all the machinery of government but not much else that you would associate

with a real city. If you're not a politician, or homeless, about the only role to play in DC is to a new Postal Museum traces the fall of astronauts), conflict wins easily. Enola be a tourist. It is a giant governmental

salvo of Arctic wind blasts theme park. Three things apply to the US Mail from the communication. Gay, the aircraft responsible for more almost everything in the city that is rel-network for a maturing nation to a secevant to your stay: it is probably a tourist attraction; it should be free; and it is almost certainly on the left-hand half of the diamond. This western side is full of neatly addressed postcards you need, bright and tidy young things with perfect teeth; sex, drugs and rock-n-roll are kept behind firmly closed doors. But the east is an urban battleground that keeps Washington a leading contender for the title of murder capital USA. So with your self-preservation compass correctly aligned, off you go.

First, arrive in style - the largest railway station in the world will do nicely. If you fly intn Baltimore-Washington airport, the connecting train ejects you beneath a vast, gloomy canopy. But this is a mere vestibule for the grand hall of heroic proportions, a Beaux Arts bonanza in marble and terracotta. A natinn built largely nn the railroad needed to accord the lines of steel with. proper respect, to terminate them in a temple to the train. This foundation has largely crumbled with the decline of the railway in America - to the extent that trains provide the flimsiest of justifications for the continued existence of Union Stating. So the shopkeepers have moved in. The list of specialty shops is much longer these days than the train timetable. If you need to buy a rail ticket, mind, you face a challenge to locate the booking office amidst all the retail opportunities. To add to the confusion, this month the station hosted an Oktoberfest - the chance for the German community

boozily to celebrate its roots. Almost everyone in Washington is from somewhere else, and most from presidents to panhandlers - are planning to return there sometime. So in a bid to establish a sense of permanence, the city has built a series of mnnumental structures, of which Union Station is merely the opening bid. Next door is the former Post Office). No parcel-despatching activity echoes these days around the cathedral-like hall. But down in the vaults.

ond-rate alternative to e-mails and fax. You can ponder the impermanence, and get a machine to print out all the for free. That's because the museum is part of the Smithsonian Institution.

If you have "been there, seen that" in Washington DC, you will already refer to the Smithsonian whenever polite conversation allows. If you have nnt, you may be puzzled about what precisely it is. The Institution was founded in 1826 by James Smithson, a British scientist who was the worst kind nf tourist - he didn't visit Washington until he was dead. Smithson was an illegitimate child, and despised the way that the British upper classes treated him. So he decided to bestow financial favour on the intellectual health of the young United States. He established an Institution for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge among men".

The upshint, these days, is 14 different museums, each providing a distinct insight into the creation of a nation. Most are located on either side of the Mall, an audacious urban open space. Pierre L'Enfant was the French architect whose grand design for the new city prescribed a broad green stripe running right through the middle of Washington, finally dissolving into the dark waters of the Potomac River. For a time, it was disrupted by a busy railway station plonked right in the middie of the lawn. Union Station solved that problem in breathtaking fashion, and the grass grew back over the tracks. Decked along it are some of the

finest museums in the world. · The Air & Space Museum is almost too embracing for its own good. Every milestone, from Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis to Apollo lunar modules, is dangled or draped around this outsized (symbolised by fighters and bombers) and peace (civil aircraft, plus the celebrated link-up in space between Soviet cosmunauts and American

deaths than any other warplane, has a resting place in the museum, amid an exhibition on the Hiroshima atomic bomb that comprised its deadly cargo.

Death, like government and tourism, is a way of life in Washington. The sorrowful story of American violence runs through the city like a severed artery. If there is no public performance at Ford's Theater, a boy scout-like ranger of the National Park Service will show you the box where Abraham Lincoln was shot in 1865, then take you over the street to the house where he died the next morning. Across the Potomac River at Arlington Cemetery, a flame burns eternally above the tomb of another assassinated president, John F Kennedy. Meanwhile, at the Vietnam Monument, inscribed slabs of granite, commemnrates all the young men sent to their deaths in an unwinnable war in Indochina waged by JFK's successors.

The most sombre memorial of all is the Holocaust Museum, where the story of the rise of fascism and the death of millinns of Jews is told in an unblinkingly straightforward manner. Since opening two years ago, it has

reduced three million visiturs to tears. Every tourist in Washington witnesses a continuum of experiences from inhumanity to showbiz. Firmly at the entertainment end of this spectrum, you find institutions of state such as the Pentagon and the FBL Each runs a tour that is as theatrical as it is glib. The FBI sheds any semblance of sensible analysis of crime by the end of its tour, when visitors are treated to a demonstration of live firing with automatic weapons.

If you have been keeping up so far, you will have enjoyed several days of wonderment without even touching the political core of Washington, You can take the presidential trinity at a fair canter. The Washington monuhangar. In the equation between war ment - at 555ft easily the tallest point in a low-rise city - pierces the pro-foundly blue sky and acts as a pinion around which the city can revolve. This plain stone needle also provides a continued on page 12

DC: the essentials

Getting there: Simon Calder paid £286 (including tax) to Major Travel (0171-485 7017) for a round-trip on British Airways from Gatwick to Baltimore-Washington airport, 30 miles north of the city. A bus/rail connection to Union Station in Washington costs \$5 each way (\$12 at weekends). BA, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic fly from Heathrow to Dulles airport, 20 miles west. The best-placed airport, National, is three miles south and on the Metro system; unfortunately, it is not served by international services.

Staying there: see Hamish McRae's story, A room around Washington, on page 12.

Getting around: most places of interest to tourists are walkable (central Georgetown to the Smithsonian takes around 40 minutes). The futuristic Metro system is fast and relatively safe. A ticket allowing unlimited travel all day (after 9.30am on weekdays) costs \$5.

Getting Information: with no US tourist office in the UK, it is tricky to get advice. The best city-specific guidebook is Access Washington DC (distributed by Harper Collins, £9.99).

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continued from page 11

pretty good view of the ensemble, with a lift that zips you to the top. If you want to descend on foot through the interior, and see the stone presented by each state to be set into the austere walls, turn up at 10am on a Saturday and ask for the "Walk-down tour".

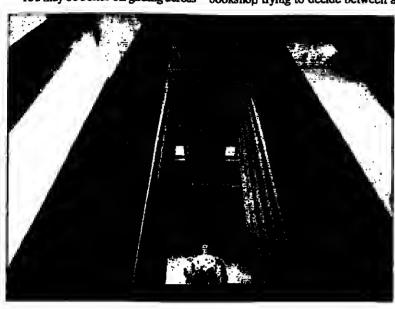
Want to see Bill Clinton's front room (at least for a couple more months!? A century ago, it was traditional for the president personally to receive visitors and shake the hand of each one. Nowadays, the White House tour involves hours of queuing for the modest privilege of trotting around some of the public areas.

You may be better off gliding across

the area known as Adams-Morgan. This is where every wave of new immigrants seems to settle and set up restaurants, providing a choice between Peruvian and Vietnamese, Salvadorean and Ethiopian. I was pleased to find the Meskerem, where I ate an Ethiopian feast four Octobers ago, is still serving deliciously simple dishes with panache. Prices around £15 with drinks - well below the DC aver-

age – allow you some spare change to give to the people left out in the cold.

New Yorkers reckon they have the city that never sleeps hut I have proof that they are not alone. On my last night I finished work at 5am, and an hour later found myself cities in a hour later found myself sitting in a bookshop trying to decide between a



to the vast Lincoln Memorial (above). A gaunt, moody statue of the murdered president keeps a distant eye on Capitol Hill. America's parliament is strangely quiet this month because one-third of the Senators and all the Representatives are back home politicking for re-election,

Most of the bureaucrats who remain beat a hasty retreat from the government offices in the city centre after 6pm - and so should you, but not too far. To hear New Yorkers disparage nightlife in Washington, you would imagine that the city becomes a power vacuum after dark. But plonk yourself at the corner of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown (a semi-suburb a mile from the White House), and you will find the sidewalks bustle well beyond midnight. Or to meet the homeless man with a good line in panbandling, aim north on 18th Street to

pint of Old Dominion or Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, After the shop assistant/barman, wearing the wooliest of liberal sweaters, pointed out that we were in the middle of the twilight zone betwixt 3am and 9.30am when beer cannot be served, I chose a coffee and a book to browse through. It turned out to be a Washington DC Vehicle License Decoder, a curious publication that enables you to work out the nationality and status of anyone driving a car with diplomatic plates. The book even gives the FBI hotline for reporting suspected spies.

A most peculiar city, and one whose spiritual heart I have signally failed to locate. I suspect that the reason is that the body politic of America has never possessed a soul. Like any theme park, Washington DC offers a perversion of humankind. Doo't expect inspiration. But you do get unlimited free thrills.

A room around Washington hill

Hamish McRae goes hotel-hunting in DC

where visiting dignitaries are accommodated. But otherwise you face a tricky task to find somewhere to stay in Washington

that is both interesting and inexpensive. I do not include in this the American Youth Hostel, though The Independent's travel editor tells me it is unbeatable value at \$18 a night. For financial journalists like me, visits to Washington tend to coincide with bankers' conventions, in particular the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. So jourpalists, on newspaper budgets, find themselves competing for accommodation with the more lavishly funded sciuns of the international hanking community. As a result the plush hotels are fully-booked,

hotels of the meeting itself: the Sheraton, where the meeting actually takes place, or the Shoreham, just across the road. They are competent, enormous palaces and I have fund memories of both. But they are expensive, and the practical advantage of being on the spot, while useful when coping with lunch-time deadlines, is offset by the fact that they are both about two miles. from the centre of the city: not so good if you are seeing someone at the US Treasury downtown.

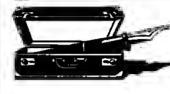
The alternative is to find a small and

door, which has larger modern rooms, but eat at the Tabard.

My own preferred solution, however, is not to stay at a regular hotel at all but instead have a serviced flat. A chain, oow called Doubletree Guest Suites, operates a chain of these and bas one at 2500 Pennsylvania Avenue, just before you cross the bridge into Georgetown. So it is 10 min-utes to the restaurants of Georgetown in one direction and 15 minutes to the White House in the other.

You may, of course, have an invitation from the President to stay at the opulent townhouse just across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, where visiting dignitaries are accommonated by the macrine itself the Standard of the standa not get a restaurant, a grand (000), bell-boys dressed in Ruritanian uniforms and all the other irritating things of hotels these days. But you do get breakfast in your sit-ting-room and if you want a meal the Ital-ian restaurant round the corner delivers. Not quite a home from home, but the best solution I have found to the problem of Washington accommodation.

The code for Washington is 001 202. American Youth Hostel, 737 2333 Canterbury Hotel, 393 3000 Doubletree Guest Suites, 785 2000 Omni Shoreham Hotel, 234 0700 Sheraton Washington, 328 2000 Tabard Inn, 785 1277.



something to declare

trouble spots

Reports for travellers to the former Eastern bloc

Moscow, Russia (right): "One common scam by airport 'taxis' is for the driver to fake an engine failure balf-way to the city. He will ask you to push the car to get it going. When you do, the car starts and he drives away with your luggage" – Russia by Rail, by Athol Yates (Bradt, £13.95).

Kaliningrad, Russia: "The more intrepid could consider the broad gauge line which runs from Braniewo to Kaliningrad, but its reputation as a route for smuggling makes it an unwise choice for Western passengers" - Ibid.

Georgia: "In Mestia and Ushguli we stay in local farmers' houses ... toilet facilities are primitive and there force." - Planet Talk, free from are no showers or bathrooms" - Lonely Planet (0181-742 3161).



Description of the Kingdoms of Georgia tour operated by the British Museum Traveller (0171-

Poland: "The road accident rate is due to poor roads ... badly loaded trucks and a disturbingly high tendency for drunkenness. To combat this there are ridiculously low speed limits and a very keen police

visitors' book

Washington - Symbol and City exhibition, at the Museum of Building.

visit to understand and enjoy DC - Sandrine Le Bitan.

care of it - Dr Nunez.

This is a really great exhibit but bargain of the week

Southampton airport rarely

features in this spot, but Air France has begun to include the Hampshire gateway among starting points for cheap flights worldwide. Through discount ageots such as Quest Worldwide (0181-547 3322), Air France is selling return tickets to Nairobi for £345 including tax. This is for departures by 20 November,

This should be the first place to it's so dirty and scruffy. It needs visit to understand and enjoy some refurbishment – Anon.

Vote for Bob Dole - Bored in You have a wonderful city, take

to which someone has added . . . ums like this? - Anon.

Why? So he can get rid of muse-

returning home by the end of next month. To head east rather than south, theo a ticket from Southamptoo to Beijing between 1 November and 15 December costs £426 return. Other airports from which these fares apply are Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. All require a change

of plane at Paris CDG.

a likely story

"The fastest way to the heart of London" - publicity for the Gatwick Express.

Wherever the heart of Londoo may lie, it is not at Victoria Station, where the Gatwick Express arrives from the Sussex airport. Nor is the 30-minute train ride the fastest link between the capital and Gatwick airport: Thameslink services take a minute less to reach London Bridge station. This is not the heart of London, either. but if (like many Londoners) you deem it to be Charing Cross, then a cross-platform change will get you there faster and cheaper than the Gatwick Express and a tube

magazines

10 titles to choose from

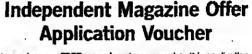
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present it to your nearest magazine retailer. You may claim a second free magazine by collecting a second set of four differently numbered tokens and attaching them to a second application voucher. In the unlikely event that your chosen magazine is not available from your retailer, please be prepared to select an alternative title. The closing date for claiming your free magazine(s) is Thursday 31 October 1996.

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room

Martin Thompson in polar Cambridge

ir Raoulph Fiennes is set to capture our imaginations as he prepares to tackle the solo crossing of Antarctica. But theo British explorers have always had an obsession with conquering the Last Great Frontier. A trip to Camhridge offers a lively insight into their adventures of the past.

Named after the legendary Antarctic explorer, the Scott Polar Research Institute Museum contains a wide range of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment, telling

Scott Polar Research Institute Museum contains a wide range of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment, telling the story of British polar exploration and research. As well as a well-presented overview of the natural riches of the polar regions, you will find objects such as the barrel organ William Parry took to the North Pole, and the brass buttons distributed to the Inuit by Sir John Franklin's wife, after his 1845 expedition failed to return. She hoped, in vain, that Sir John would somehow find a button and realise she had oot given up the search. To help bring the collections to life, and to stimulate wider interest in the polar regions, the museum holds special free "events". On the day we went, "Passport to Polar Adventure" was in full swing.

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Offer

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port to Polar Adventure" was in full swing.

"Please pick up your passports here," announced the organiser, Dr Pam Davis, a veteran of two Antarotic research trips. On arrival, my children were handed "passports" to be stamped at the six polar stations dotted throughout the small museum. (As a novel twist, adults were allowed to travel on their children's passports.) After clambering oo a motor sledge, we checked in at Base Camp and were offered the chance to get kitted out io bright orange helicopter immer-

sion suits, designed to aid survival if you are unlucky enough to crash-land upside down on the ice.

Bob Najam, a life support systems engineer, explained that if you weigh 18 stooe you may last on the ice for up to 17 hours, but your chances of getting out alive decrease in proportion to your body weight. Dieters take note

Dieters take oote. Have you ever had an urge to experience what life Jels like inside your fridge freezer? The next passport control point was camed after Vostok station in Antarctica, the coldest place on earth. Here we had a chance to chill out in -30C, whilst incarcerated in



understanding of the buzz that lures explorers to the earth's extremities

room-sized chambers normally used for preserving ice specimens. After five minutes, the massive freezer door swung open, just as it seemed that hypothermia (oot to mention claustrophobia) was about to set in. My seven-year-old daughter's reaction was to queue up

nmediately for a return to the Ice Kingdom. Next stop, the popular Crevasse Rescue Station, with the museum's stairwell doubling as an Antarctic

with the miseum's stall well doubling as all Antarctic ice ravine. Experienced polar mountaineers were on hand to teach yoo how to winch yourself to safety.

"My shipmates call me Captain Joe. I'm the resident sea captain here and my mission is to guide you through the ice-floes." An impressive, barrel-chested figure, Joe Wubbold was once an icebreaker captain with the US Coastguard and is oow becalmed at Cambridge doing his MA. In his beguiting drawl, he took us oo an adventurous imaginary journey on a modern icebreaker pushing its way past icebergs and whales.

A cacophony of yelping led us oo to the colony of husky dogs imported for the evect, to be patted and harnessed as appropriate. Having beeo banned from the Antarctic as environmentally unfriendly in 1994

Research Institute Museum discovering that there is more to living and working in the frozeo wastes than ice and more ice. Thanks to the museum displays, we really began to understand the huzz that lures scien-(as carriers of distemper, huskies were deemed dangerous to the seal population), these cheerful dogs are ow restricted to appearing in shows in the Home Counties, "I always take the sledge along, just in case," explained their handler, Janet Ward of the Eskimo Dog

Club of Great Britain. Cambridge is a world centre for polar research. As well as a PhD student from Russia studying the properties of sea ice, seasoned Antarctic explorers and scientists were oo hand to answer our questions. They were aided by fresh-faced polar research scientists, cagerly awaiting the call to be airlifted to the Falklands, the jumping off point for Antarctica.

My family happily spent four hours at the Scott Polar

tists and explorers, such as Sir Ranulph Fiennes, to the earth's extremities. Being immersed in sub-zero temperatures and hauled out of a 30ft crevasse is a hunger-making business, and we gratefully pocketed a clutch of Penguin bars before heading home to the

The Scott Polar Research Institute Museum, Lensfield Road, Cambridge is open between 2.30pm and 4.00pm, Monday to Saturday. Admission is free, Special arrangements can be made for school groups. To find out about forthcoming special events, ring Dr Davis on 01223 336540.

'Are We Nearly There?'

Drama-related events for children over the half-term

Haymarket Theatre, Leicester The Pippin Club theatre has performances and workshops every Saturday for 4-7yr olds. This weekend it's The Ugly Duckling by Little Angel Theatre Company, with storytelling, puppets and music in the Studio

Sat 19 Oct, 11am-12pm. Adult, £3.50; child, £2.50. (0116-253 9797)

Royal Exchange, Manchester Members of the company lead afternoon workshops for 10-12 year olds in Manchester Town Hall. Limited places need booking in advance. Wed 23 and Fri 25 Oct; £3 per workshop, £5 for two. Contact Dawn Chadwick (0161-833 9333).

Royal National Theatre, London Although there are no workshops. parents can take their children on a behind-the-scenes tour of the theatre, taking in the backstage, dressing rooms and technical areas. Meet in the Littletoo Foyer. Daily, 12.30pm and 5.30pm. (0171-633 6880)

Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh Opera Circus perform King Stag, a theatre fantasy with plenty of colourful costumes. A workshop based on the production is open to all ages. For workshop (Sat. 11am-1pm), ask for Claire Beattie. Performances: Thur 24-Sat 26, 7.30pm; £7, cone £4. Performance plus workshop: £9, conc £5 (0131-228 1404).

BAC, London Tragedy, melodrama and physical theatre combine in the Time Machine workshop for 8-11 year olds. Young performers will put oo their own show for family and friends at the end of the week. Oct 21-25, 2-4pm; £15-25.

For youoger children (5-7) there's.4 day in the Life of the Jungle which mixes drama with some crafty mask making. Oct 21-25 10,30am-12.30pm (£15-25). (0171-223 2223)

The Tramway Theatre, Glasgov The Oily Cart Company perform The Roly Poly Pudding, jam-packed with puppets and participation. Children, from 3 to 10, are encouraged to join in and solve Roly Poly puzzles, 19 Oct, 1am; £1. (0141-287 5511)

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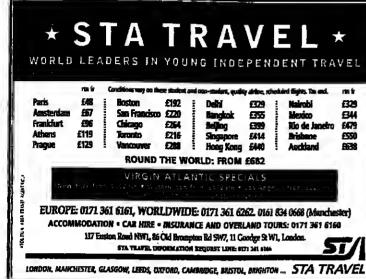
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A Path

What the ski brochures really mean

Stphen Wood gets hooked on the small print

y friend Magnus does not have happy memories of his last skiing trip. It was a disaster. Less than a week before he left, the tour operator told him that his accommorn had to be changed: instead of a three-star houthe centre of the resort, he would be staying two-star establishment a kilometre away.

1. on the coach transfer from the airport - having overed that his skis had not arrived on the plar he lost his passport. The next morning, at thehire shop, he met someone who had made a latoking and paid 20 per cent less for the same hoy. His own skis got to the resort two days later g with warm weather. The thaw meant that maf the lifts were closed for the rest of the week.

, so I made up that story. But those things hapnotich is why they feature in every brochure: assenterpoint to all the full-colour fun up front. thall print at the back deals with the downside oling, from delays through to nuclear disaster aleath. The booking conditions section (or, as Jams' The Edge snowboarding brochure has it. t Really dull legal stuff") details how the tour cator will put things right if your holiday goes vig. You know it's important; hut you are not a Fer, you never wear an anorak, and you don't

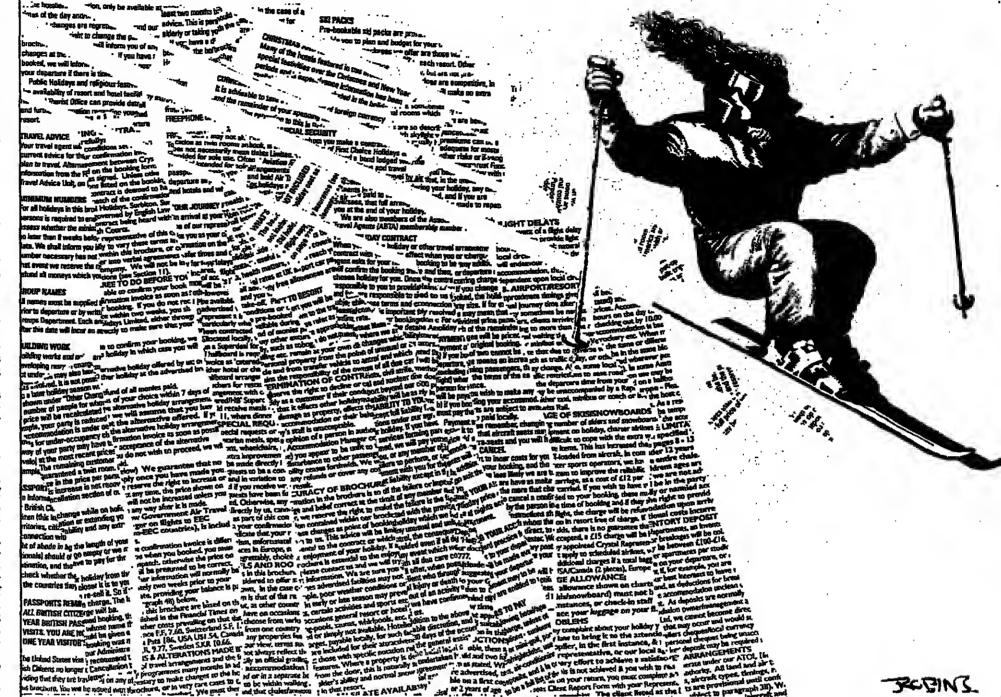
rl smal print. So I've done it for you. and I lave made important discoveries on your talf. Fist, they are not all the same: the small print he brechures published by the six major operas diffes considerably. Second, one of them has iter tems than the others. And third, reading liking onditions is addictive.

All tou operators offer compensation to clients I "majc" changes to a holiday, in accommodari, flightimings and so on - unless caused by force rjeure, be definitions of force majeure vary with dightfulubtlety (though none of them, oddly, nntionsie old standby "Acts of God"), and compisation rms vary, too. My imaginary friend Magns woulhave pocketed £100 for accepting inferir accomodation from Thomson, much less if head trelled with Neilson (£60), Inghams (£40), or rystaf20). Alternatively, of course, he could hac carried the holiday and got a refund.

The sall print is more vague about what happers if yeget separated from your skis. All tour operator large a ski-carriage fee of £12 on charter lighted if your skis don't turn up at the other end most them, with the notable exception of Airpursomise to refund the £12 - which is a hit tike that 50 per cent scam of predicting the sex of a baby our money back if we get it wrong"). The broces all contain a rather unspecific commitmenteet your skis to you as soon as possible, hut onlyomson and Neilson also undertake to loan yous if necessary.

Compition for delayed skis comes with many of the hreres' insurance policies. Airtows pays out £100 to heplacements. Crystal only £30 - and that wide varm is characteristic of hrochure policies. Althoughy all cost the same, about £35 a week for Euro bey all give you something different.

Theren argument (ask any small-print freak) for read he brochures backwards, because the insurance differ more than the holidays. Say you fancy a wat the Hotel Aujon in Flaine on 8 February: hdo you choose between Thomson and First Ch, which both have a brochure price of



accident-prone, you choose First Choice: its medical benefits are an astonishing £10m, while Thomson's are at the bottom end of the normal £2-£5m range.

The fashionable insurance to have this year is piste-closure cover - it even appears at the front of some brochures. First Choice, Airtours, Inghams and Crystal include the cover in their brochure insur-£300? Strom the hack, and it's easy. If you're ance: the hest offer is Airtours', with travel to an mildly acnt-prone, you go with Thomson: its "loss" alternative skiable area when 80 per cent of your

driving around in search of snow in the cost of the holiday (although you need insurance to qualify for compensation). Take a calculator if you have First Choice's insurance because it only kicks in when 85 per cent of the lifts are closed; don't bother if you're insured with Crystal or Inghams, because they require that the whole resort be shut down. If you start a brochure at the front, you probably

printed in the brochure? Essentially, that they may be correct, or they may not, so ask your travel agent before booking. Once you have booked, however, all operators guarantee that the price will not change - except for Thomson. It admits that the price could go down: "if we reduce the total price of a holiday after you have booked it, we will charge you the new lower price".

of passport" benefit is £700, compared with the stan-resort's lifts are closed for lack of snow-or, if that's also think the prices are the most important thing in if the lower price were for a subtly different holidard £250 offered by First Choice. If you're wildly impossible, £30 per day compensation instead, it. And there's another argument for starting at the day), it's a good offer - like everything else in Thom-Both Neilson and Thomson, however, include the driving around in search of snow in the cost of the printed in the brochure? Esscatially, that they may be which makes them a bit accessible; and there are weird nuggets like Crystal's off-hand "ski boots above size 9 may not be available in Romania". But I was impressed, and said so to Thomson's product manager for skiing. Ian Simkins. He was as pleased as Shakespeare would be if you told him you adored his stage directions. Great: I was impressed by the If that isn't quite all it seems (it wouldn't apply one part of his brochure that nobody reads.

Ir search of snow

Bill urroughs on weather variations

vi autumn, keen sl anxiously await n of early snow in the Algrich may provide a guidewhat is to come. The Iweek has been stormehe Alps, but the erratic w seasons of the last 10so years are sufficient on to justify this concernd atthough the tast fears have produced adequisnow records, the special global warming still des many skiers

mightes.
Thun of dry years arouse end of the 1980s were i as the harbinger of a wer elimate. Indeed. 1994 ooked set to repeat this tern, with recordbrea warmth in November a dearth of snow. Thee huge falls of early Jameset things up for what pro to be a humper seasonst year, cold, dry condita rather than warmth, got season off to a poor staind subsequent snowfallere modest, especially in nee, despite the fact the was a distinctly cold

effect of global warmthylps will depend on chies in both temperature anorecipitation. If rising teteratures are accompanishy increased precipitatio then the extra snowfall Ovall, the amount of snow for ders try remain unal- over the last 60 years. ten or est increase.

Stistics offected in Austriand Switerland since the appreiableend in snowfall over the la 100 years. At lowe, levelthere is a hint bumper falls of 1970. Within



have outweighed the effect of increased precipitation and reduced the amount of snowing winter snow-cover in fall, cutting the length of the scason a bit.

Incidentally, statistics collected since the 1930s in California for the purposes of managing water resources tell the same story. Despite a wifancel out the effects of warming trend, seasonal anyarminaat higher levels. snowfall in the Sierra Nevada has, if anything, increased

Statistics for the Alps also provide insights into the shorter term variations in late 9th centry suggest that snowfall. On every timescale, this ompetating effect has the key word is erratic. Runs occured. Alwe around 1500 of good years can be folmetrs (500 cet), there is no lowed by a series of poor seasons, or a bad year, such as 1969, being followed by the ahead.

applies, as the sudden improvement in January 1995 demonstrated, or conversely, after the magnificent falls of the autumn of 1992, there was nearly two months of drought

fluctuations. Despite the impression of a pattern in there are no reliable cycles that can he used to predict whether any year will be good or bad. Similarly, within any season, the shifts hetween settled, dry sunny periods and stormy, snowy intervals are unpredictable more than a few days

winters. Much more important is the amount of precipitation. It follows that cold, dry winters such as 1964 can before further snow gave a be just as disastrous as mild, good end to the season. dry ones such as 1989, and There is no identifiable last year nearly fell into this rhyme or reason to these category.

show that snowy years do

not necessarily feature cold

cold and stormy late autumn the variations over the years and early winter, such as slopes above 1500 to 2000 those that set up the seasons of 1981/82 or 1992/93; followed by a relatively mild dry winter with plenty of settled, sunny weather to enable skiers to exploit the ample snow. By way of contrast, if the weather gets very cold, as spells of January 1987 and February 1991 demonstrated, it can be too hitter in the Alps £10.99

that higher temperatures any season, the same story ture records for the Alps to enjoy the snow in the high

Basic guidelines for skiers in search of snow remain the same - best options are the hig, high resorts in high season. But at the lower resorts, especially those below 1000 metres (3300 feet) in Austria and below 1250 metres (4100 fect) in the French Alps, you The ideal combination is a may get little snow cover unless you have access to metres (4900 to 6600 feet). Where there are not enough high-level slopes, early and late holidays are likely to

> Bill Boroughs' book 'Mountain Weather: A Guide for Skiers and Hillwalkers' is published hy Crowood Press, priced at

become increasingly risky.



nless you have cleaned np

The place where the pound is truly puny, of course, is Japan

on the stock market, financing a winter sports holiday could be an uphill struggle. With the pound slithering down on its long-term decline, you are not going to have much of an uproarious après-ski splurge with, say, £100. For such an amount, a high street burean de change this week would give you just 780 French francs or 190 of the Swiss variety. And what about that irritating need for German currency when you fly to Munich for onward transit to Austria? That £10 for the odd coffee or snack will become just 15 Deutschmarks once you pay commission charges. Increasingly, it seems that the British abroad are destined to suffer the discomfiture of the chronically impecu-

German airports are greedy," Mr Robinson writes. "Not content with charging an airport tax, they make you pay again to use the luggage trolleys." You can,

nious - unless they are emulate

the initiative demonstrated by

Philip Robinson of Sheffield.

however, beat the system. "At Hamburg airport last week, I found the usual machines which swallow DM2.50 before they give you a trolley, then refund 50 pfennig when a trolley is returned." This being Germany, a lot of wellheeled travellers don't bother to collect their refund. So Mr Robinson cashed in.

"After using my trolley, 1 'sold' it to an American couple for a dollar (cutting out the middle man)." With a long wait before his flight to Manchester, Mr Robinson decided to go for it. "I strolled around the airport gathering trolleys and returning them to the machines for 50 pfennig each. I made enough for a bottle of duty-free vodice and a bar of

Being short of a few pfennig, this column can offer only a bar of chocolate for other tales of getting the better of airport scams.

he place where the pound is truly puny, of course, is Japan. Yet even in this economic powerhouse, the Imperial family sees fit to travel by public transport a habit that our own royals are only just beginning to acquire. Furthermore, the Japanese are quite happy for their highnesses to travel in the company of impecunious British visitors. So last month I found myself sharing a carriage with the Crown Prince and his charming wife.

The Inpanese are generous to the tourist to the extent of positively subsidising visitors. For example, a week of unlimited travel on the country's bullet trains costs £167. Since a Tokyo to Kyoto return ticket alone would cost this much, it is a bargain indeed - especially when you find yourself travelling royal class.

At Morioka station, on the island of Honshu, one carriage of the 2.48pm bullet train to Tokyo was surrounded by a clump of besuited officials, a crowd of well-wishers and a mood of urgency. Suddenly, a cheer went up and the Prince and Princess appeared. Their entourage was converging on coach 10. So was I. Was there a mistake?, I asked a station official. He checked my seat reservation and led me through the security cordon towards the royal couple.

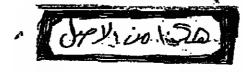
They looked considerably more elegant than me; as well as a dusty old backpack, I was carrying a plastic bowlful of ramen, the delicious noodle soup that station buffets dispense for a lot less than a BR sandwich. But I was not destined to slurp in the company of Japan's future ruler.

It turns out that the latest bullet trains are double-decker, with first class at the top; plebs like me were stuck on the lower floor. where the view is mostly of con-

crete embankments. As we hurtled towards the Japanese capital at 130mph, the main point of interest was the knot of secret service men guarding their shoulder holsters and the steps up to the royal pair's quarters. At each station, the security men erupted onto the platform, where a group of wellwishers bowed and waved fondly to the royal couple. But as with all Japanese trains, it arrived perfectly on time in Tokyo.

The imperial couple provided a fine example for our own royal family: that it is possible to use public transport and remain dienified. This week, Buckingham Palace announced that the royal family is to use public transport rather than insisting on timousines and private aircraft. Let us travellers hope that they cause less disruption than when the Queen famously took a scheduled flight for the first time last year. Her Majesty was on her way back from the Commonwealth conference in New Zealand, but received rather better treatment than most travellers - the flight was diverted for her. The Air New Zealand plane she boarded in Auckland was the one that normally goes to Frankfurt, not London,

Luckily, Her Majesty was saved that tiresome transfer at Germany's busiest airport, since the 747 touched down specially at Heathrow - just a five-minute drive from Windsor Castle. Meanwhile, the unfortunate Frankfurt-bound passengers had an hour added to their journey because of the extra stop. And they probably had to pay DM2.50 for a luggage trolley, too.



High time in Holland

Anna Rockall takes the Midnight Express to Amsterdam

estled in the pages of Viz, along with the adverts for "legal highs", T-shirts emblazoned with the familiar seven-pointed leaf, and indoor growing cahinets for the horticulturally-minded, a company called Midnight Express advertises a "Smoker's Weekend" in Amsterdam. A coach takes you overnight to this watery city, drops you off at 9 in the morning on Saturday, and picks you up at 1.30 that night. The intended benefit of two consecutive nights trying to sleep on a coach heing, presumably, that you have no accommodation costs.

16

Prior to emharking on this masochistic venture. I couldn't think of a purer hell than being dumped in a strange city after an uncomfortable, sleepless night and being expected to take soporific drugs all day. That was before I discovered who I was to be travelling with. About half the bus was filled with a mixture of perfectly ordinary looking people - couples, a few ageing hippies, and groups of friends off for a fun weekend. But they were overshadowed by the lads at the back of the bus; drunk, stoned, noisy, abusive and sexist, to name just a few of their sins - they sported skinheads and a bad attitude. A Datch friend tells me that it is these men that the infamous Amsterdam prostitutes dislike the most, because of the way they burp and fart at inopportune moments.

The company's introductory description of its trips, so to speak, says: "We want you to feel that you are in Amsterdam the moment you step aboard our coach, and just like in the Amsterdam coffee shops, we play music..." And just like in the Amsterdam coffee shops, dope is smoked whilst on board. Within two minutes of getting on the coach, the first wreaths of perfumed smoke drifted over. Although the introduction does not mention drugs, it does ask "that you are considerate to other passengers when you smoke, so if the people sitting near you are not smoking, you should at least offer them some!"

Going through UK formalities on to the ferry was surprisingly trouble-free considering the coach reeked of illegal



travel

Amsterdam's Bull Dog café

unhindered. Having crossed the Channel, most people tried to get some sleep, their beads balanced uncomfortably on anything that offered support until we were direction to head in, the highly motivated

substances, hut we were let through woken-up, stiff-necked and cold, just lager louts - or in this case ganja louts -. ontside Amsterdam.

As we stumbled out of the bus and stood in a daze on the street, wondering which

mped out and looked at us mockingly. "What the fook are you standin' about for? Goin' to do some fookin' sightseeing?" Photograph: Gavin Milverton/Impact

Then they goose-stepped off, no doubt The Midnight Express (0121696363) to the nearest den of iniquity. The rest of coach to Amsterdam leaves a Fricary us also went to a nearby coffee shop, where evening from Manchester arLondon, for some reason everybody apart from price £38. The next availablate is it myself thought the best antidote to a November.

sleepless night and a strong desireo to bed for 24 hours was several largiffs. bed for 24 hours was several largitus.

Not being a smoker on a grande, I had decided to hold out until the ring but despite my best intentions uccumbed to a few drags of Super nk.

Although this sounds like a social use. I have to admit it was rather deligh, It made me feel slightly comatose, but n't take much so was still able to arther take much so was still able to artic when asked a simple and direct quen.
In fact, it led to some rather interig
effects at the Van Gogh museum, in
was my next port of call.
The Van Gogh museum is a next

was my next port of call.

The Van Gogh museum is a worful gem of a gallery – not overwhelmly big, like the Rijksmuseum – and s beautifully laid out in three large ros.

These are mainly devoted, of cours a Van Gogh but also exhibiting some or paintings of the same partial. paintings of the same period. We hrings me to the interesting effect of couple of puffs I had before go.
There is a lifesize bronze statue in museum - Farmer by Jules Galot which from a distance is was everyth you would expect of a bronze state; st But close up, I could have swon it w

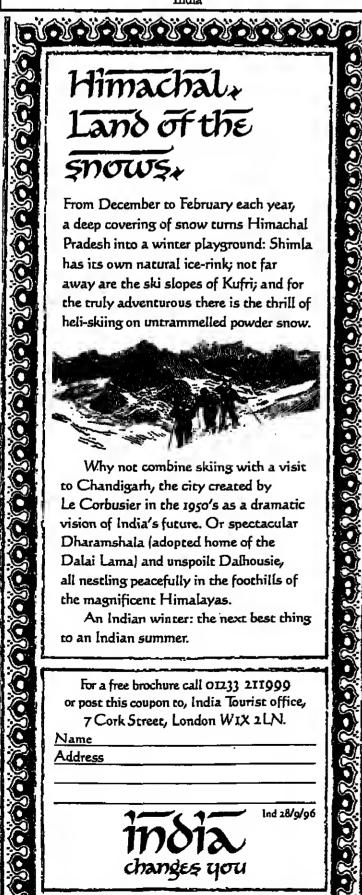
breathing.

After a full day of debaucher: the d trippers all met up, somewhat te wor for wear, and piled unwillingly n to ti coach for the return journey. his tim nearly everybody - and certain the la at the back - went straight to sep aft

We didn't wake up until we rethed th ferry. We passed customs wiout ar problems, and there was a wesprea lighting-up of joints as soon are we: through - still in sight of theustons building. Perhaps it was a celeation of safe passage, perhaps it was siny to hep us get back to sleep again, bu seemd to me like a big V-sign to anguaby,

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ting

The low country on wheels

The Netherlands is perfect for a half-term cycling holiday. By Christian Wolmar

ou must be mad," we were told several times wheo we said we were were told several times wheo we said we were cycle bag each, with the six-year-old dimes — where the paths are quite hilly, but with the wind fortunately taking the whole family, including the three children -Molly, 16, Pascoe, 12, and Misha, six - off for a week's cycling holiday. The sceptics were proved utterly

A cycling touring holiday is not unlike a skiing one, without the potential for much après-cycle activities. You spend all day on a relatively strenuous activity and you slump down in the evening too exhausted to do anything other than eat, drink and play cards.

There is, of course, one hig dif-ference. For skiing, you look for the steepest mountains. For cycling, particularly with kids and unfit urban dwellers, you look for the flattest land. And that really means the Netherlands, apart from a few hits of Belgium and Denmark.

We took the ferry from Harwich to Hook of Holland, which is cooveniently placed to give access to any part of the country. Arranging this was not as easy as might have been expected. When I rang up Stena to book the five of us, they tried to charge us a total of £272, nearly a third more than if we had just taken a car, although they stressed that "the bicycles are free, sir". It was only wheo I phoned British Rail that I discovered there was a £49 Apex return fare to anywhere on the Dutch rail network using the boat train from Liverpool Street to Harwich.

Conventional wisdom has it that cycling holidays have to be done on the cheap, carrying lots of kit between campsites or spartan youth We eschewed that approach, deciding we would stay in two- and three-star hotels with good breakfasts to fortify us for the enjoy the physical exercise of - and cycling is undoubtedly the

carrying nothing.
At Hook, there was a choice of directions, either to head inland past Rotterdam towards the centre of the country, or to go up the coast, which is signposted as the Nordzee route. We chose the latter. The cycle path to The Hague takes you straightaway from the main road. through the dunes and the market gardens where vast greenhouses, some heated by natural gas, produce the flowers and vegetables that contribute much to the country's

Our holiday proved that cycling with relatively young children is feasible - and in any case Misha is a toughie with a lot of stamina. On the freestanding paths away from the roads, we let the kids go first, and then flexed our muscles a bit to catch them up. Again, it was just like skiing, except that the adults were faster than the kids rather than the other way round.

The first day, we made a bad mistake by having an ice-cream too many. As we licked our way through it watching the thunderous rollers oo the deserted beach at Katwijk aan Zee, an ominous black cloud appeared over the sea. We had planned to stay three miles down the road at Noordwijk aan Zee, and jumped oo our bikes hoping to beat the storm. We failed, getting drenched, despite our wet weather gear, in a storm of tropical pro-

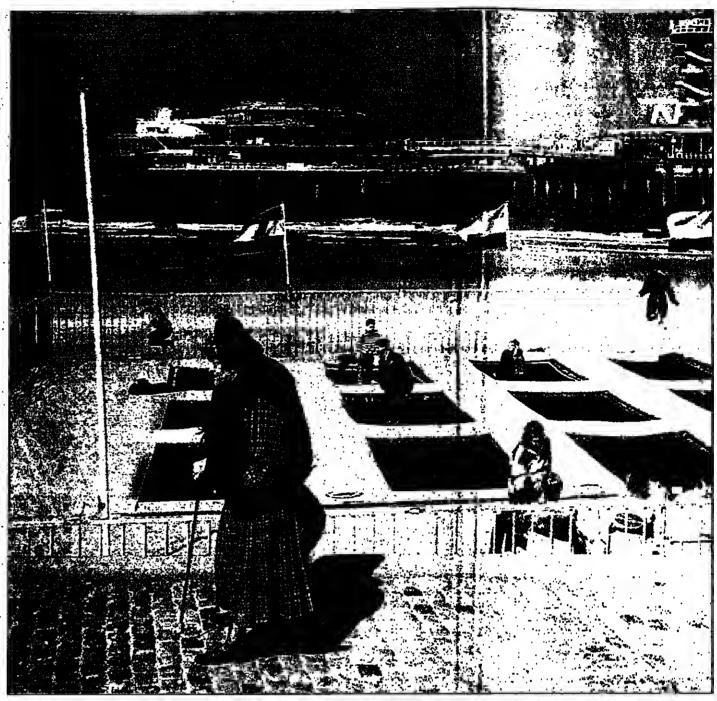
The next morning we discovered from my little cycle computer that we had done 38 miles, rather than the 15 or 20 we had expected that Misha could manage. Moreover, she was loving it and raring to go. The older kids, too, really began to day's exertions and take the cycling and we spent the oext cou- best way to see it.

behind us - covering the whole of the coast up to Den Heider. It is a very attractive landscape and far more varied than we had expected, with some extensive forests. We made occasional forays inland, where the flat land is anything but boring as it is broken up by canals, lakes, fields of flowers and neat thatched cottages. The most exhil-arating part was cycling along the huge concrete dikes, where for several miles there was space for us to cycle five abreast beside the sea without fear of getting in anyone's

At Den Helder, we left our hags behind for a day's touring round Texel, the biggest of the islands of the northern coast, with an extensive network of cycle paths. It was a bit like a classy version of Southend, but somehow the fact that there are more people on bicycles than in cars adds to the feeling that this is a country which is just that hit more civilised than

However, we had a few causes of complaint. First, while the cycle routes are, of course, wonderful by British standards, they have a tendency to give out in parts of towns. Secondly, the famous VVVs - the local tourist boards - are not as helpful as expected, being staffed mainly by sullen young women with something better to do than give you advice or book hotels in oeighbouring towns. Thirdly, and surprisingly, it is extremely pricey to take your bike on a train

These objections aside, Holland is a perfect place for a cycling holiday en famille. Flat it may be, hut the country is anything but boring



The sea front at Scheveningen

Photograph: Simon Shepheard/Impact

A guide to going Dutch

By Simon Calder

Getting there Air: The bad news is that World Airlines has just ended scheduled services on its sole route - Londoo City to Amsterdam. The good oews is that Amsterdam still has the best connections of any foreign destination. Flights serve the city's Schiphol airport from Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, East Midlands, Edinhurgh, Glasgow, Guernsey, Humberside, Jersey, Leeds, London (City. Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted), Luton, Manchester, Newcas-

UK (0345 666777) or its partner, the Dutch airline KLM (0181-750 9000). The lowest return fares tend to be available from airports in the London area. Air UK has a fare of £77 (including tax) for mid-week travel from City or Stansted, Ageots may offer lower fares; for example, Major Travel (0171-485 7017)

tle, Norwich, Southamptoo

and Teeside. Most of these

destinations are served by Air

Stansted for £70 return. Trains run four times an hour from Schiphol airport to Amsterdam's Centraal Station, taking 20 minutes and costing about £2 each way. There are also rail services to many other Dutch destina-

is selling Air UK flights from

Other Dutch airports with services from the UK are Eindhoven, Maastricht and Rotterdam.

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Transi

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The state of

Rail: One benefit of travelling by train to Holland is that most tickets enable you to travel to any Dutch station. Eurostar trains (0345 881881) run from London Waterloo as far as Brussels, where you change for Amsterdam and beyond. The lowest fare is £77 (stay away a Saturday night, no changes permitted). The journey to Amsterdam takes about seven hours. Trains from London Liverwich with Stena Lioe ships comparison, the foot passenpool Street connect at Har-(0990 455455) to Hoek van Holland, where trains depart for various Dutch destioations. An Apex return costs £49 to any station in the Netherlands. London to Amsterdam takes about 11 hours.



Citysprint (01304 240241) operates three buses a day from London Victoria to Amsterdam and other Dutch cities. An Apex ticket costs £27 return. Eurolines (0990 143219) also has three daily services from London; the lowest fare is £29 return for midweek travel, £10 for other

Ferry: Steoa Line (0990 707070) has two sailings daily between Harwich and Hoek van Holland. The present pricing structure makes it much cheaper if you take a car than if you don't Until 8 November, a car and four passengers can travel for £49 return. For return. North Sea Ferries (01482 377177) has a ferry each night between Hull and Rotterdam. A car plus four people costs £265 return, while foot passengers pay £64.

travel), Euro Domino passes (three days in any month for £39) and Multi Rovers (five people travel anywhere all day for £61). To get you to your final

Rail has an office in Hampshire

(01962 773646), selling Day Rover tickets (£27 for unlimited

destination, a Train Taxi ticket costs £2.50 and entitles yon to a ride anywhere within the city limits of 80 stations (bnt not Amsterdam, the Hague, Rotterdam or Utrecht). Alternatively, travellers with a valid train ticket can rent a bicycle for around £3.50 a day from many rail stations. Taking your own bike on a train costs up to £6. depending on distance.

City transport: Amsterdam has trams, buses and a metro. Tickets can be bought for individual journeys, but it is much cheaper to buy a Nationale Strippenkaart for around £5 which allows multiple journeys for you and friends up to a maximum of 15 units (journeys within Amsterdam cost two or three units). You can use the same ticket on the Rotterdam trams, the Hague bus network or any other local public transport in Holland. Some tickets have a crossword on the back to keep you occupied while waiting.

Accommodation

Eurolink (01795 581000) has

two daily sailings from Sheer-

ness to Vlissingen; a special

offer allows foot passengers to

book and pay before the end

of October and return by 19

December. A car plus four

adults costs £69 return, if you

book by the end of October.

Scandinavian Seaways (01255

240240) operates from New-

castle to Umuiden, near Ams-

terdam, until the end of Octo-

ber, starting again in February.

A foot passenger pays £59

return, sharing a four-berth

couchette cabin, while a car

plus four adults sharing a

higher-grade cabin is £484.

Lower fares may be available

for shorter sea crossings from Dover and Folkestone to

The most sensible means of trans-

port is the train - fast, frequent

Getting around

Advance hotel bookings can be made through the National Reservation Centre (00 31 70 travel for £10 return if you 317 5454); this is a special English-language line. No fee is charged. Bed & Breakfast Holland, based in Amsterdam (00 31 20 615 7527), can book B&Bs throughout the country if you book in advance. The Dutch youth hostels association, the NJHC, has 37 youth hostels, costing around £10 per night for bed and hreakfast; call 00 31 20 551 3155.

> The Netherlands Board of Tourism, 18 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LD (0891 200277) operates the shortest hours of any tourist office: it opens to the public 10.30am-12.30pm. The main tourist office in Amsterdam isopposite the main entrance to the Centrael Station, and

Further information



I had a little bay tree

Workshop: How do you cope with a tearaway tree? Anna Pavord advises

am hoping that you may be able to advise me on how to go about pruning a bay tree in my back garden. Our garden is a narrow town garden – just the width of our terrace house. The tree in question is right at the back. I planted it 18 years ago as a small cutting and it is now approximately eight metres tall.

I like the bay tree. It is lovely and pro-vides shelter for birds in winter and nesting places in summer. It acts as a wind-lweak so there's a nice, sheltered place to sit at its foot. But it grows bigger and big-ger and blocks out the light for the adjoining garden. Last summer I got an estimate from a garden maintenance person to come and prune it in August, but he never turned up to do the job. This year I asked someone else. He said that it was a winter joh and that all the branches should be cut right back. so I would end up with just a skeleton. I do not think that I want my winter garden to look miserable with a skeleton of a tree at the back. Can you tell me when the job should be done and how it should be carried out?

Hanne Westergaard's hay tree is, as she says, lovely. Nobody has ever told it that it's not supposed to he hardy eoough to survive in Sheffield. It has grown at an extraordinary rate since she planted it, aod has waltzed through Yorkshire winters without a hiccup. She estimates that it is about 25ft tall and it shows no signs of stopping there. I don't know of any taller ones in Yorkshire (and would be glad to hear of any) hut at Kingston Lacey in Dorset there's a hay 48ft tall and even bigger ones flourish in Margam Park, near Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. Mild coastal areas suit it

But so, evidently, does Ms Wester-gaard's garden, which is a oarrow, wedgeshaped plot oo the inside curve of a cresceot. The hay tree sits at the bottom of the garden, the thin end of the wedge, growing as a tall, dense spire, with branches right down to the ground.

Ms Westergaard has trimmed the sides of the bay fairly regularly, so the tree has become like a hig piece of topiary. But now her ladder runs out way before the top of the tree and she worries about how she can manage it in the future. At least 8ft-10ft will have to come against the tree and marked the height at which she would like to maintain the

This rather drastic topping will spoil the beautiful, tapering cone shape of the tree. Perhaps the best way round this problem will be to rethink the shape, and clip it in future as a cylinder rather than

a cone, cutting the sides up straight rather than on a sloping line. Ms Westergaard was happy about this change of line. She had seen and admired bays clipped as cones and cylinders in the Botanic Garden at Copenhagen and could see such a shape fitting well into the space at the hottom of her own gar-den. She is Danish herself, but has lived

with her English husband in this Sheffield house for the past 20 years.

The top will look bare and awkward for a while hut, like yew trees, bays are tolerant of hard pruning. Leaves will grow again from the bare wood, hut the recovery is quite slow. The best way to treat bay is to trim it lightly hut regularly during summer, rather than to give it an occasional but very heavy pruning. If you trim the tree regularly, you encourage it to form the solid, tight mass of green foliage that makes it such a good lollipop tree in a tub.

tree in a tuh.

Like Ms Westergaard, I wasn't mad about the idea of the whole tree being chopped hack to a skeleton, as one contractor had suggested. Much too drastic. When yew hedges are given this treatment, only one side of the hedge is done at a time with a break in between to at a time, with a break in between to allow the yew to get over the shock. But her contractor was not suggesting even this nicety. The tree might have recov-ered, but it would have been asking a lot of it. Especially if, as it was standing there

of it, Especially it, as it was standing there naked and shivering, Sheffield suddenly turned nasty and dumped it into the middle of a long, hard winter.

So when should this painful beheading take place? Not before August and not after the end of October, I would say. If you were taking similar drastic action If you were taking similar drastic action in reducing a deciduous tree, you would wait until after leaf fall before beginning work, and you would want it done before the sap started to rise again in February. But evergreens, such as the hay, work to a different clock.

Ms Westergaard seemed worried about the competence of the people she had so far beeo in touch with about her hay. I suggested she should get contact off to bring the top of the bay back within the Arboricultural Association, which suggested that she put her ladder up geon io her area. She cares about the the gravelly soil. She also got some old climbing rose had taken itself up into the garden very much. It was all concrete paving stones from the council and laid stratosphere, tangling with pyracantha The Arboricultural Association is at Ampwhen she and her husband arrived, those to make an informal path down the around the back door of the bouse. with cement washing up around the centre of the garden, leaving plenty of What you looked at on the fence was not 9PA (01794 368717).



Hanne Westergaard and her bay tree

were the garden's only plants. Those came oul So, with more difficulty, did

room for planting on either side.

There's a stone wall down one side the gardeo and larch-lap fencing or the concrete.

Ms Westergaard persuaded the corporation's road-sweepers to dnmp their loads of autumn leaves oo her front garden. Then she carted the leaves through

There's a stone wall down one side of the gardeo and larch-lap fencing oo the other. Both are swathed with climbing roses, pyracantha, clematis and an extraordinarily pretty little climbing tropaeolum, Ttuberosum, at its best oow with spurred nasturtium flowers of orange, ed in red. A 'Gloire de

Photograph: Guzelian roses, hut gnarled, thorny stem. "While you're here ..." said Ms Westergaard. In the oext half hour we hatched a drastic rejuvenation plan for the rose, as well as a hatchet job on the pyracantha. Meanwhile, a frog watched us with beady pop eyes from his berth in the little pond on the left of the garden path. He's not

field House, Romsey, Hampshire SO51



cuttings

Jonathan Garratt of the Hare Lane Pottery has gathered together a clutch of fellow craftsmen for a collaborative show, to 27 October, Sarah Walton is showing chunky bird baths, Petra Reynolds has lemony tableware and Svend Bayer has smooth, sculptural garden planters. The pottery is just outside Cranborne, near Wimborne, Oorset (01725 517700).

Apple Day has its anniversary on Monday. Since the first celebration in London's Covent Garden in 1990, more than 400 groups have organised events, including the
National Trust in its gardens at Acom
Bank and Attingham Park. The Acom
Bank garden (Sunday 2pm-5pm) will offer apple tastings, help identify visitors' apples, and hold pruning demonstrations. The garden is at Temple Sowerby, near Pennith, Cumbna (017683 61893). Attingham Park, near Shrewshury, Shropshire (01743 709203) offers a guided tour of the orchard and pleasure grounds today and tomorrow, 2.30pm, a display of unusual apples and a quiz. At Crapes Fruit Farm, Aldham, near Colchester, Essex (01206 212375), Andrew and Ann Tann are displaying some of their hundreds of apple varieties, Gift packs can be sent as presents. The parishes around Much Marcle in Hereford and Worcester celebrate the apple this weekend and next. Jackie Denman has arranged orchard walks, apple and cider tastings, and more. Call 01531 670544 for details.

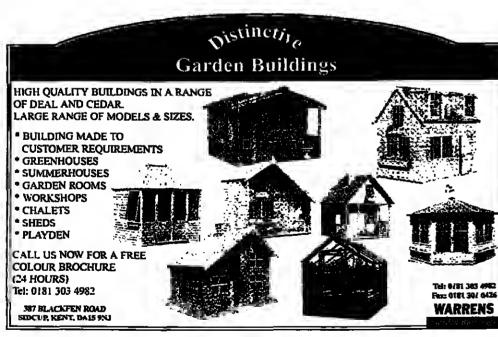
weekend work

Continue to pick tomatoes, which had a slow start this season. 'Dario' (Marshalls, £1.77) has been very successful. Its large fruit, about four to a pound, make fabulous soup.

Sow lawn seed in areas that have been well dug, raked and cleared of stones and dehris. The warm, moist soil will encourage seed to germinate and grow before frost

Cut back dying stems of herbaceous perennials and compost them, but leave penstemons until March, so as to avoid frost damage to young growth.

gardening



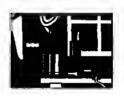








GREENHOUSE



toolshed

Tom Barber advises on leaf clearance

t seems a little intempertheir leaves fall off. The inconvenience, however, can be real enough, and poetic musings oo oature's rich cyclical pageant are scant comfort wheo faced with all those rotting autumn corpses.

A smothering of fallen leaves can kill grass and other low-growing plants and will congeal on paths and driveways to form a soggy, slippery mess. They gleefully block gutters and drains and can also provide a winter refuge for the fungal spores of existing diseases such as scab and hlackspot.

Leaves landing in poods slowly putrefy into a stinky hlack gunk which can pollute the water. If you have ponds that are liable to leaf invasion, cover the water with oetting during autumn, or fish the leaves out while they

are still afloat. If your deceased leaves do not carry any of these threats, theo repress any tendency you have for tidiness and let them alone. Leaf clearing is tedious at the best of times. Besides, in a suitable place such as a shrubby border, an annual dressing of leaves is positively beneficial, forming a natural mulch and returning valuable nutrients to the soil. But if a leaf cull is required, vou have three choices: the rake, the wheeled leaf-

sweeper and the blower-vac. The good news is that not only is a rake the cheapest and simplest tool, but also, in most situations, it is as fast as anything else and often the most effective. Spring-tined and stone rakes are pretty hope-

Do yourself the favour of getting ooe that has been designed for the job, with broader or softer heads, such as the rubber-toothed Wizard

handled with energetic dex-terity, does an excellent job.
Picking up the assembled piles of leaves is swiftest using a simple pair of woodeo boards, but if repeated bend-ing and lifting is a problem get yourself a long-handled leaf-grabber. For moving the piles to

find a large, tough sheet the best bet, though you need to A che be able to lift the thing, and you may find a capacions wheelharrow is easier to manage.

Lawn-sweepers operate just like a carpet-sweeper, with wheels turning a series of brushes that propel the debris into a rear-mounted less satisfactory if the ground is uneveo. There is not much obviously complete the task in a shorter time.

Powered leaf-collectors are a relatively recent comincorporate a shredder which end. Honest,

less, as they quickly become chops the leaves up as they clogged with impaled leaves. are drawn in, reducing both their volume and their composting time.

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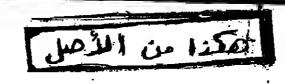
The cheapest electric leafcollectors can now be had for less than £100. But, as with from Bulldog or the plastic most garden machinery, the leaf rake from Spear and Jack- best performance almost son. A traditionalist may opt always comes from larger. for a heather besom, which, if heavier and more expensive models.

Call me a Luddite, but on the whole these machines seem to be more trouble than they are worth, heing no quicker than a vigorously wielded rake and certainly no more thorough, especially when you are faced with wet leaves, twigs and fruit. I sugwherever you want them, I gest you try one out before

A cheaper alternative on grass is to use a mower on its highest setting, with a grass box fitted. This will pick up most of a leafy carpet, and shred it into the bargain.

Never discard the leaves that you have laboured to collect, as they produce the most marvellous of all bag. They work best on areas organic materials. They take such as good turf and hard time to decompose so are surfaces (not gravel) but are best dealt with in their own pile rather than the compost heap. You will have to wait to choose between the various models on the market, before you've got usable leaf though wider machines will mould, though mixing in some grass clippings the following spring will speed

things up. A simple wire cage is quite modity. They employ either adequate. Firmly tread down a vacuum to suck the leaves each addition of leaves and up into a bag, or a blower that add a little water if they are harries them into more cas-dry. For smaller quantities ily raked up heaps. Many you could just use plastic have both, and some also sacks. It's worth it in the



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Pliny also recommended

I cannot claim that these quotations spring from regular readings of Pliny. Rather, they come from Ripest Apples, an engaging little anthology of poetry and prose collected by the Gloucestershire antiquarian Roy Palmer and published to

Living as he does in strong cider country, Mr Palmer includes many pieces about that heady brew, not least a ditty about Cider Annie, who was well known around

To orchards in the sky For life has passed her by...

And nothing can her harm.

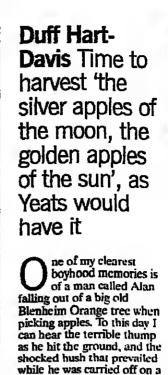
An early report from Worcestershire has workmen drinking 16 pints of cider a day, hul "a lot if we can get it". A 19th-century document records how, on the eve of the Epiphany. Devon farmers would go ou into the orchards at night with their families and labourers and, "amidst loud cheers and discharges of firearms", pour libations of cider at the foot of the trees to ensure next season's

harvesi. "Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples", runs the Song of Solomon; and this anthology contains much good cheer. Yet not a is jollity. Thomas Cogan. writing in 1584, warned that new apples, eaten before they are fully ripe, "hurt the

in the second digestion". Four centuries on, a bitte taste derives from a government statistic which shows that the area of orchards in the United Kingdom fell by more than 50 per cent between 1970 and 1994; and a poem by Edward Gartitt, published i 1987, echoes the same sad

Five apple trees
Are all the stranger sees In what the village calls The Orchard Field. Others, as they pass, See only trees and grass Where to our village eves A ravished orchard lies.

Ripest Apples is published b The Big Apple Association. Woodcroft, Putley, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2RD, pric



burdle. In spite of that disturbing recollection, I love harvesting apples, especially from trees that are tall enough for me to indulge atavistic instincts and swing about the branches. Standing on a ladder is one thing. launching off into the canopy quite another.

Up there, safety depends on reading the strength of individual branches, and I cover myself by choosing positions that have natural back-ups: if branch A breaks. for example, branch B will act as a second line of defence, and I can also grah branch C to take some of the

In a high tree, the secret is to have an earth-bound accomplice: if he or she possesses a safe pair of hands, individual apples can be dropped, one by one. Alternatively, a bag can be lowered and raised on a rope, so that the picker does not have to keep climbing

down and up. Last weekend I hoped I might achieve the ultimate picking experience by going aloft during the eclipse of the sun, and, by careful positioning of my head. create an eclipse of my own. blotting out both sun and moon simultaneously behind one cracking Bramley. Yeats's "the silver apples of the moon, the golden apples of the sun" might suddenly acquire magical reality.

Alas for such fancies! Not only was the sky overcast. and the sun invisible; many of the higgest apples turned out to be hlemished, so that

they will not keep. Nevertheless. I picked a barrowful from the tree, and, back on the ground, addressed myself to the problems of storage. I used once to wrap cookers individually in newspaper, but experience has proved this laborious process to he a waste of time. Our apples keep perfectly well unwrapped, in a slone-huilt shed, provided they are set out on the shelves so that none touches its neighbour.

The Roman polymath Pliny the Elder recognised this essential truth in his Natural History, written in the 1st century AD, when he laid down that fruit should be stored "far apart so that the spaces between the rows



may admit a uniform draught".

that apples should be gathered "after the autumn equinox, and not before the 16th day of the moon nor later than the 28th, nor on a rainy day, nor till an hour after sunrise"

celebrate Apple Day, on Monday, 21 October.

Ledbury in the Fifties:

Old Cider Amie she has No longer need she trudge

No more hing in the ditch And no more in the barn: She's resting in an orchard

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Five go mad in Shropshire

Daniel Butler and friends found historic Bishop's Castle rich in scenery and pubs

he historic road from Ludlow past Stokesay was controlled, probably from the 8th century, by the bisbops of Hereford who built a castle where the gap narrows between the mountain lines of the Long Mynd and the Clun Forest. Only a small garrison was needed to keep a check on the Welsh and to regulate the town which had sprung up on this road of the castles'."

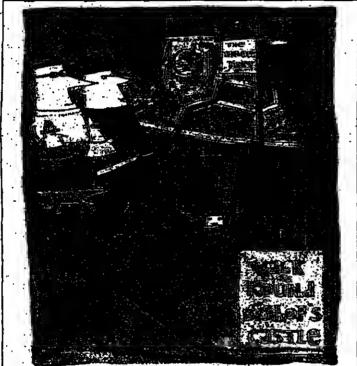
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15 GAY KENYA GAMPII

The Encyclopaedia Britannica's entry for Bishop's Castle is hardly exhaustive, but the brief reference enough to send five of us off to investigate the area's walking possibilities. Although it now has a marvellous feeling of tranquillity, for several centuries this small Shropshire market town lay at the heart of some of the most fought over terrain in Britain. There are several excellent pubs,

but we chose to start and finish our walk in The Three Tuns, a former coaching inn, with its own brewery, dating back to the 17th century. Its helpful manager, Keith Kightley, sorted out a selection of suitable walks, proroising a hot meal on our return. With a couple of two-yearolds in tow, we picked a short walk south of the town, to Cwmmawr Dingle - a path through ancient woodland.

Fortified with XXX bitter we set off down the High Street, ignoring the threat of rain. We headed boldly for the Norman church at the bottom of the hill before we were turned left along Church Lane. This path soon



wander up a track that forms part of the Shropshire Way.

At the end, we found ourselves in the front garden of The Fields, a whitewashed cottage. We were faced with a choice: either carry on in a straight line for a longer walk or turn right across open fields. The weight of the toddlers on our shoulders was beginning to tell and the pub's gas-

forks and we took the right branch, tronomic delights were starting to for hang- and paragliders. Although turning left almost immediately to call. So we opted for the shorter walk, stopping first at some sloe-laden hlackthorn hedges. As we harvested a tiny fraction of the bumper crop, we looked over superb views of the Long Mynd - the 16mile ridge that runs parallel to the border. In the past it was a place of mystery, with the rocky promonto-

ries of the Stiperstones surrounded

in superstition. Today, it is a Mecca

From The Three Tuns walk down to the church. Turn right and then immediately left. At the sign to The Pines, turn right and then left along the Shropshire Way.

When you reach a whitewashed cottage on the right, either:
a) Carry straight on until the

fourth stile. Do not cross, but turn right. Cross two more stiles, at the third, turn right towards a wood -Cwmmawr Dingle. Walk through, going right at the footbridge and left to the gate. Go through and

Or b) turn right alongside the cottage, crossing a stile into a field. Go up the hill and over two more stiles. Then walk to the field's far corner and cross a stile in a tall hedge. Cross the next small field, tum right and walk down with the hedge on your left.

Either way, next go through a gate at the bottom of the field and tum right along a lane, then right again on to the road on the outskirts of Bishop's Castle.

spectacular in any weather, the view was much improved by the sudden emergence of the sun, dappling everything in a warm light with the contours of the hills highlighted by the scudding shadows of clouds. The improved weather brought out the wildlife, too, and in no time four pairs of buzzards were wheeling overhead in the suff breeze.

for a few seconds in a

added. Allow to cool and then

of water or cold milk. This can

diving into hedges for the last of the blackberries. We continued over the ridge, crossing a rickety stile to be confronted by views north and west into Wales. Then we crossed another open field, siming for a stile, beautifully framed in a wall of overgrown hedge and strongly reminiscent of a castle doorway. After crossing the next, much smaller, field and yet another stile, we were in the bottom corner of the wood where the children were delighted to spot the white-and-red tops of fly agaric, those classic "toadstools" beloved by illustrators and garden gnome manufacturers. By now, however, there was just

our own walk was comparatively

gentle. The toddlers were able to

run alongside, chasing the dog and

one thing on our minds - how quickly could we get to our wild mushrooms on a bed of black mushroom rice and the casserole of chicken and duck? Just as important, which of the pub hrewery's four beers would we pick to go with n? So the toddlers were swept on to shoulders and we completed the final half mile into town at a jog.

The meal was everything we had

boped and all five of us were soon too full to consider the afternoon stroll which the scenery deserved, hut we compensated for this by watching a peregrine circling high above the town. Then we set off on a guided tour of the hrewery.

Maps: OS Landranger 137; Pathfinder 930. The Three Tuns (01538-638797) also provids maps. In spite of the hilly surroundings,

A spice worth its weight in gold

Saffron is fun to grow at home, and tastes delicious, writes Patricia Cleveland-Peck

affron, the spice obtained from Crocus sativus, was once a flourishing industry in England. In 1597 Gerard wrote in his Herbal "Saffron groweth plennfully in Cambridgeshire, Saffron Walden and other places thereabouts as corne in the fields".

Today, Caroline Riden is one of the few people in the UK producing the homegrown plant in hulk. As an autumn crocus, the crop will soon be ready for harvest, Then Ms Riden begins the laborious task of hand-picking the three scarlel stigmas from each mauve flower, drying the small, aromatic strands and preparing them for saleusually to Fortnum & Mason. It takes hours of work, and the stigmus from 150 flowers, to produce one gram of saffron.

Ms Riden lives in North Wales where she and her husband John also raise a suckler herd of Aberdeen Angus. She began growing saffron 10 years ago with 15 corms bought at a garden centre. She planted them in a pot in the greenhouse and was



Crocus sativus: 150 flowers produce one gram of saffron

the following October. The about 12cm (5in) deep and a dried stigmas produced only similar distance apart." enough saffron to flavour adish of rice, but she had established the principle - growing. saffron was possible.

"It need not be difficult," she says. "You begin by preparing the soil in a sunny spot. Dig in manure and, as the crocuses prefer a slightly alkaline soil, add a little lime if necessary. Plant the corms

delighted when they flowered between June and August Ms Riden's original expe-

rience proves that the plant will also flower in pots. Flowering itself is triggered by a fall in temperature and usually continues for a month or so, but do not expect too much the first year. As each corm matures it produces baby corms, a process known as "dorting"; after four years the using saffron in the form of Caergwie, Chayd LL1 9EF.

plant should be dug up and saffron milk or saffron water. 20 or so strands are toasted the small corms removed and planted separately. saucepan and then a table-Saffron needs to be gathspoonful of boiling water is

ered daily, preferably in the morning. In a garden situation it is better to nip out the add this concentrate to 150 ml three brilliant red stigmas and leave the crocus flower in situ. be stored in the fridge (strain When you've collected your strands out if left for more both damp and light. Ms Riden advises first taking off this is a matter of taste - leaving it on produces a different fruit tarts. "note" in the flavour. The safabsorbent kitchen paper and dried in an airing cupboard for two or three days until brittle. It will last up to five years in an airtight container.

British saffron has a sweet-Riden's corms are naturalised ness not found in the imported spice. In the homeand thus used to our climate; grown product, the underlying slightly bitter tang is tem- to take so kindly to our cooler pered with a honey scent. This adds a distinctive quality to dishes such as bouillabaisse, paella, saffron cake, saffron bread - even potatoes. Ms Riden recommends

stigmas, dry them, avoiding than 2 days) and will give a golden hue and a delicious flavour to any dishes which the white base, or style, but require milk or water - it is especially good in pastry for Ms Riden has worked out fron should be wrapped in that a supply of 14g should keep an average family in saffron for a year. For this amount 200 corms are needed but, as they dort fast, a mere 20 coms would be quite enough to start with. Ms

> imported corms do not seem For details of saffron cultivation and order forms for corms send SAE to Caroline Riden, Caer Estyn Farm, Rhyddin Hill,

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value for money - is simply brilliant. Not only will its powerful 1,000 watt motor make light work of cleaning up garden debris such as legves and grass dippings, it will actually shred and mulch everything into tiny pleass - unlike some other

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money & homes

Bookie who lost a million. My biggest mistake.....23 British cars have been overtaken. Motoring......28 Apple taste test. Shopping 29

Tax-free but not without worries

PEP mortgages are making a comeback. Clifford German weighs up the risks involved

en million people have a mortgage, several million now have tax-free personal equity plans. and the combination of the two in the form of a PEP mortgage has been around for years. But it is still a modest slice of the total mortgage market in spite of the obvious attractions of paying off the loan with the proceeds of a totally tax-free investment instead of a conventional endowment policy.

One reason for the slow take-up of PEP mortgages

is prohably the strong trend away from products, which repay the mortgage in full only at the very end of the term, in favour of the traditional repayment mortgage, which starts reducing the size of the loan with the first payment.

This in turn can be traced back to the alarming revelation that, because of the drop in inflation and in the returns on investments, some "low-cost" endowment policies, mostly those taken out since the mid-Eighties, might not actually grow fast enough to pay off the mortgage at the end of the term, let alone provide the fat surplus that most projections bandied around in the early Eighties.

In fact these fears may have been exaggerated. Only a handful of maturing endowment mortgages so far have failed to cover the debt, and most insurance companies are still suggesting that policies maturing in the next few years will cover perhaps 1.1 or even 1.2 times the loans they are linked to. But the fall in property values over the last five years and the phenomenon of negative equity also tilted the balance back in favour of repayment mortgages, where slowly but surely negative equity is reduced as the debt shrinks.

PEP mortgages may have suffered along with endowment mortgages, especially as the value of the PEP can actually fall visibly if the underlying investments are doing badly. PEP mortgages are also seen as relatively inflexible, with no scope to extend the payment term, and lacking the automatic life insurance cover which endowment mortgages provide.

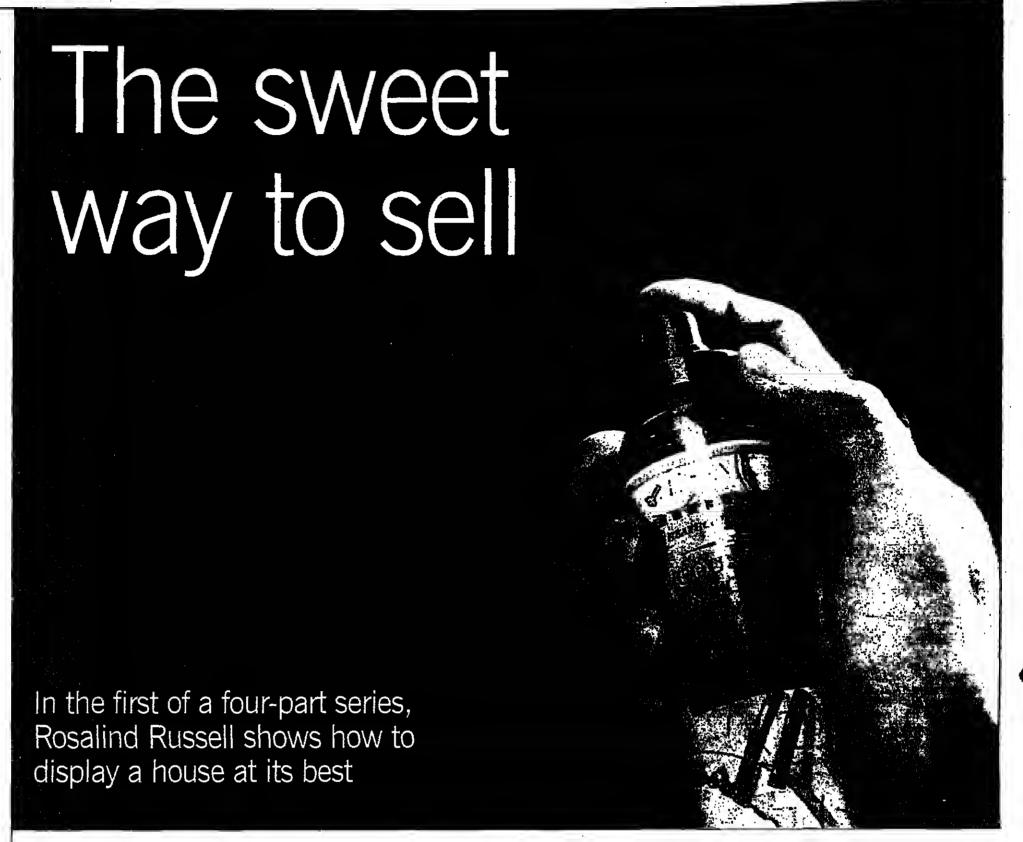
The wheel of fortune may now he turning back as the property market recovers and negative equity begins to diminish. The appeal of PEP mortgages has increased visibly because the strong showing of the stock market has put real profits into the pockets of

Next week Standard Life is hoping to capitalise on the trend by launching a mortgage package called Homebuilder PEP combining a PEP invested in Standard's own managed unit trust and fed by regular premiums, with a special mortgage projection policy to protect the payments against a sudden loss of earnings. There is also a critical illness option.

Other eventualities are covered by the option to increase and extend the mortgage, make early repayments, and take payment holidays. The plans can be used to finance a property purchase or a remortgage of an existing property. The minimum mortgage term is five years, the maximum 35 The minimum starting age is 19 and the maximum 75, although critical illness cover is only available to under-60s.

Borrowers are expected to pick their own lender, which could include fixed-rate or discount loans. The PEP is invested in a relatively expensive unit trust with an initial charge of 5.5 per cent, an annual management charge of 1 per cent and a bid-to-offer spread of 6 per cent (including the initial charge).

But Standard Life expects to sell as many as 10,000 PEP mortgages next year compared with around 50,000 of its existing Homeplan unitised endowment mortgages. Anyone interested can apply to a Standard Life branch, eall freephone 0800-333353, or go to an independent financial adviser.



he house was immaculate. Bowls of fragrant pot-pourri stood in the hall, the paintwork was bright enough to warrant Ray-Bans and the master bedroom looked show home perfect. Upstairs in the drawing room of the honey-coloured barn conversion, the Turkish rugs, antiques and plumpedup sofas could have featured in a magazine spread. But something niggled. Having prepared a textbook house sales pitch, why did the vendors have the kitchen radio blaring so loudly that we could harely hear ourselves speak? The answer lay in the garden. As soon as we stepped outside, the roar of the M1 half a mile away - impossible to disguise, even with Radio 4 at full volume - shattered the peace of the Hertfordshire countryside. The owners were clearly distraught when another potential buyer said thanks, but no thanks,

To overcome a hlighted location, there's little you can do except lower the price to an irresistible level. Fortunately, other flaws are cheaper to fix, and most can be dealt with for less than £250.

Toys should be tucked into cuphoards, beds made, clothes picked up off the floor, kitchen and hathroom kept spotless and old newspapers thrown out. It does not add charm to have an unrestored classic car rusting quietly in the garage alongside a cobwebby harbecue and old

is deeply unattractive. If it's not moving with you, throw it out; if it is, pack it in a case and

"Carpets should be cleaned," says Judith Wilson, a stylist with Homes and Gardens, "Very you'll find the room looks lighter."

Taking the "Beware of the dog" sign from the someone thinking Good, I'll negotiate those carpets in with the price' and, 'Oh God, we'll have to replace those grubby carpets. It'll cost

Stylists should know. The reality of famous homes as featured in the glossies often bears little resemblance to the finished photo session. Stylists bring in vanloads of flowers, cushions, sofa throws, lamps, dainty china - even scones and jam. Seemingly fragile stars have shown a surprising determination to hang on to these extras once the shoot is over. Sadly, this service is not offered to the house-selling public, surely an unexploited gap in the market.

"Flowers are terribly important," agrees Judith. "And you'll notice show homes often have magazines such as Homes & Gardens in the sitting room to give the impression that you're huying that sort of lifestyle with the house."

New cushion covers - plain, not patterned pull together the colours in a room, as will Habitat's new plain, off-the-peg tab-headed curtains, says Judith. She applied her advice to her own

paint tins. The detritus of other people's lives home and swept all the clutter off the mantelpiece, replacing it with a single vase of flowers.

"It looked brilliant," she recalls. "Put a bowl

front gate is also advisable.

Sellers used to he urged to grill a few coffee beans, or stick a loaf of bread in the oven, and hope that viewers wouldn't notice the mushroomy smell of dry rot.

Hoary old chestnuts both. The latest gimmick is a foodie room spray. Made by the Devon-hased firm Heathcote and Ivory, Country Kitchen room sprays have been launched in the Carpenters and Superdrug chainstores at £1.99 a pop. They come in four flavours: freshly ground coffee, lemon meringue pie, apple pie with cinnamon, and pink grapefruit. In scentsensitive Japan, demand has been enormous.

I have to report that the coffee spray smelled more Tia Maria than Kenco, but the dog licked his lips for half-an-hour after the testing.

The idea came from male customers who said they didn't like the traditional peach or rose scents," says the sales director, Paul Lane. "We toyed with the idea of a bread spray, but in all the tests it comes out smelling like burned

No such frivolities for David Bedford, an East Anglian estate agent. He thinks a quick, successful sale is all down to the survey. More emcially, a pre-sale structural survey commissioned by the owner. It is made available to all potential buyers, then assigned to - with the cost

reimhursed by – the eventual purchaser.

"We advise clients selling a property more than 50 years old to have this done." he says. "It can reassure buyers, or at least show them where future problems and expense may lie."

Of Mr Bedford's clients, 30 per cent take the same view. And the firm claims far fewer sales fall through when this survey exists. It also tends to discourage huvers using a survey as a lastminute hit of arm-twisting to knock down the price. "In our experience, huyers try to knock off £20,000 for work that might cost £3,000." Sellers have the option of acting on the sur-

vey and baving repairs done themselves. The legal position is that although the seller commissions the survey, it is done in trust for the as yet unknown purchaser.

Everybody talks about the Scottish system of property sales being better." says Mr Bedford, "but there you can waste a fortune on several surveys and still not get the house. Their system [where once the offer is accepted you are legally bound to purchase), combined with this pre-sale survey, is the dream ticket."

Treat your gutter with respect

Autumn is the time to check up on drainpipes, writes Josie Barnard

Burglars love them, but most house-holders ignore them until they get blocked by falling lcaves. Autumn is the time to consider your drainpipes. According to Dyno-Rod research, 50 per cent of the population don't bother, while just 12 per cent do an annual clear-out.

Treve Rossoman, architectural curator at English Heritage, says drainpipes should be treated with respect. Any broken guttering will quickly cause tremendous problems in your brickwork. And if you've got a house where the main gutter runs through the roof to the back, you probably won't know about a blockage until your roof collapses."

A Dyno-Rod survey last May found that property surveyors would like to see more potential house-buyers checking their drain-

pipes prior to purchase. Meanwhile. Treve Rossoman is appalled at the way huilders have played fasi and loose with plastic drainpipes since the war. Frontages have been ruined by houses being converted into flats. If hathrooms are at the front, they smash a hole through that wall ... it's cheaper than taking the waste round to the side. It's an abomination."

gone to some lengths to hide drainpipes, thereby contravening their bonesty-is-thebest-policy rule.

Michael Johnson, an architect, is bemused. "Since the Beaubourg Centre in Paris, much architecture has been about expressing a huilding s functions. Yet the Beaubourg codes all its external services pipework in bright primary colours, except the drainpipes.

In their first historical incarnation, drainpipes were dominating features. The medieval equivalents were lead-lined wood gutters plus magnificently carved gargoyles that spurted rainwater through stone monster mouths, safely away from church walls.

It was the Georgians who started the drainpipe hokey cokey. in and out of sight, ordering them, with the I724 Building Act, round the back of houses lest they ruin the clean look of facades. But even the Victorians, for all their table-leg-covering modesty, did not try to hide drainpipes completely.

Now we have become coy. 'Look at Stansted Airport," says Michael Johnson.

By contrast, Modernist architects have rainwater gets from the roof to the ground." For some people, though, drainpipes are a point of pride. The Charles Brooking Col-lection at the University of Greenwich has more than 100 rainwater heads dating from

between 1800 and 1960, including examples used by huilders to date their work. For a buge variety of modern drainpipes, head for the Building Centre at London's Covent Garden. "As far as I know," says the information manager, Darren Jarvis, "this is the only place in Britain where you can come and look at an extensive collection of contemporary drainpipes. Even high-class

huilders' merchants tend to stock only two

or three plastic makes." As well as handing out catalogues for copper, flower-blue and ruby-red drainpipes, the Building Centre offers advice. They can tell you about Guardian Security Pipes, "flush to wall and immovable" to flummox burglars, or, if you are more concerned with aesthetics, put you in touch with suppliers such as J & JW Longbottom of

Yorkshire, who stock cast-iron drainpipes, But cast iron doesn't come cheap. A job

round guttering and four rainwater beads will cost around £150 in plastic. Double that figure for basic cast-iron equivalents, and treble it if you want plenty of fancy bits such as turret-style hopper heads and fleur-de-lis earbands. Treve Rossoman decided his

bank balance couldn't stand such an outlay. "My house is 1904, but someone put square plastic drainpipes on. I painted them dark green, which is, along with dark red and blue, a traditional colour for 19th-

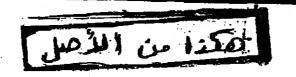
century guttering and downpipes."

Of course, the best way to appreciate the variety of drainpipes is simply to look around. My personal favourites are those at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, where gargoyles overlook pedestrians. But as part of a Neo-Gothic building, the gargoyles are toothless, literally. Their mouths are closed; rainwater gushes down black drainpipe tails.

Charles Brooking Collection, University of Greenwich Danford Campus (0181-316 9897). Call for appointment, a week ahead to see specific examples). The Building Centre. "There is no visible evidence of how the lot of four downpipes, 20 metres of half 26 Store Street, London WCIE 7BT.







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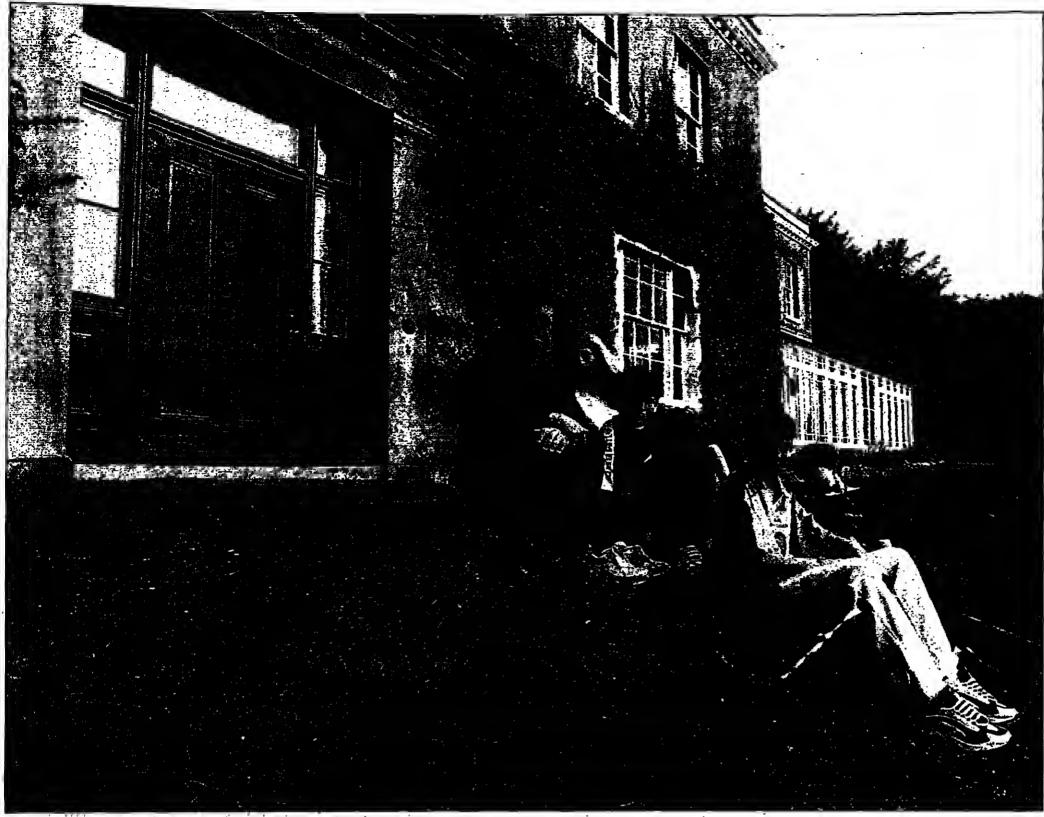
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By Penny Jackson



Melanie Walsh and her family outside Dancers Hill: the house has been painstakingly restored over the last four years

Photograph: Edward Sykes

interesting buildings, so it came as no surprise to her three sons when the family upped and left their comfortable home to rattle around in a leaking Georgian mansion. Even so, after the first two days of rough living in their derelict stately home in Hertfordshire, the Walsh boys demanded they retreat to a hotel.

We bullied the children into believing it was going to be a fabulous adventure, hut after a weekend of washing over a standpipe and using a bucket to flush the loo, they weren't convinced," says Mrs Walsh. "It was pretty awful," she admits.

Indeed, four years ago, Dancers Hill House, with its 18 acres of gardens and fields, was short on all home comforts. Most of the running water came through the roof. "All the lead had been stolen and the rain had soaked all the timbers. The plaster was loose and if you didn't walk round with a hard hat you'd be knocked unconscious. The first thing we had to do was to make the house watertight."

So had was the house, in fact, that Melanie and her husband Nigel chose not to tell the rest of their family of their plans to move there and restore it.

elanie Walsh has a passion for old, "Never in my lifetime", were the words of an aunt, when she finally clapped eyes on the project. She was wrong. Within a couple of years the splendour of the Grade II-listed house had become apparent. Rooms were unboarded to display the proportions of their 18th-century origins, period features were saved and painstakingly copied where they had decayed beyond repair. At the same time, the history of the house was gradually uncovered as the Walshes burrowed into cellars and stables.

As Melanie drives us through Hadley Green, Barnet, on a mini-guided tour her love affair with houses, as distinct from property, is obvious: "The one that looks like a church was Spike Milligan's house; this is the oldest cottage in the village; I'd

love to buy that house - gorgeous, isn't it?"

It is not a new interest. "I got the bug when I was 11. My parents wanted to move and I was fascinated by all the house details that kept arriving. Ever since then I have spent most of my spare time looking at houses. My husband is just the same. That's why we are selling our house now: we need the challenge of something new. I suppose some people would

Auctions

Dancers Hill she points out the curious arched passage way at the back of the drawing room that had been an open loggis until incorporated into the building, and that the back of the house is higher from the ground than the front, to stop servants watching the comings and goings in the drive. We look at a vast hedroom with a study, that had once been five dark and poky rooms. In the library, home to the family's myriad collections of anything from Dinky cars to unopened Batman packs, she points to a fireplace - "We had to go to Huddersfield for that"-and an ornate ceiling rose: "The excitement when we know we could save it". Yet, in the restored conservatory, imitation flowers replace the real thing. They all died during a hot spell when we were away, explains Melanie.

her property, said that today a house like Dancers Hill, bought in a very run-down condition, would go for about £750,000.

enormous original kitchen habitable, with its stone with Statons, Hadley Green (0181-449 3383).

Melanie Walsh has an infectious enthusiasm. At flagstones and ancient range: "It's really so that Nigel can cook - be's marvellous at it - and chatter to people at the same time."

The house is, despite long hours with conservation officers and builders, first and foremost a family home. "We cherish its history, but it's not a museum piece," says Melanie Walsh, firmly.

For most of the time it is overrun with friends of her sons, who find themselves in a child's paradise. Where the formal garden ends, the fields and wooded wilderness begin, and a football pitch has even been carved out of a clearing. There are stables, used for the filming of Lady Chatterley's Lover, a 300-year-old cottage, and the remains of a 19th-century swimming-pool, now home to a family of moorhens.

"It once took me two hours to find my sons during a game of hide-and-seek. We have strict rules now. She was unwilling to say how much all this restoration work cost, but Nick Staton, the agent handling is unrepentant. "They understand that we need a new challenge. It will be very exciting. In fact, I've been looking at this old asylum ...

In the basement, work is under way to make the Dancers Hill House is on the market for £1.350,000,

house hunter



arborough House in Norfolk is a gem of a Georgian country house, in need of extensive restoration but possessing many original features. It has a reception hall with a magnificent staircase, four reception rooms, a conservatory, a study and cloakroom. The kitchen is hasie. There are 10 bedrooms, but the top floor lacks electricity and water. The owner, in her nineties, has not been into some rooms for 30 years. The listed bouse overlooks parkland on the edge of the village of Narborough, 10 miles from King's Lynn. The once formal and partwalled gardens are neglected. Offers in the region of £175,000 Agents: Beltons (01553 770055).



Marlborough, Wiltshire, there is chance to extend and modernise a Grade II-listed hrick-and-flint house in the centre of town. The inside of the neo-Gothic building. thought to be a Victorian folly, is virtually a shell. A rendered brick extension was added early this century. There is planning consent to extend to the back of the house alongside the main wall. The house has no heating and a lean-to kitchen and bathroom. The asking price is in excess of £100,000. Agents: Hamptons (01672 516256).



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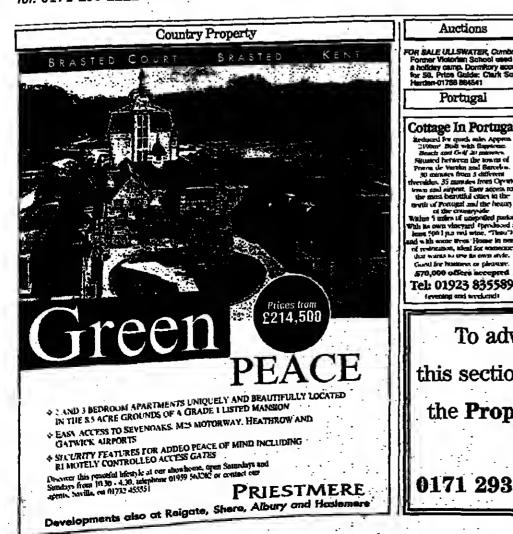
And

barn in the heart of Swaledale, used for the filming of All Creatures Great and Small, is heing sold with permission for conversion into a home. The traditional stone barn, near Marskein-Swaledale, will make a two-storey house with three good-sized reception rooms and five bedrooms. It stands in a field of nearly three acres, close to Skelton Farm, and it has its own access from a small country lane. It is six miles west of Richmond, just outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The guide price is £110,000. Agents are Jackson-Stops & Staff (01325 489948).

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The lure of the West Country

Devon and Cornwall offer not only high quality of life, but also holiday income. By Mary Wilson

grow up with the country." Horace Greely, editor of the New York Tribune, may have been referring to life in America in the 19th century, but his words have a particular resonance for Britons. Today, the urge to move west

in this country is extremely strong.

In Britain, people go to the West Country not so much to grow up, as to retire from busy cities. Since the Seventies, around 58,000 people have moved to the quiet counties of Devon and Cornwall. The north coast generally attracts those looking for wild countryside and dramatic scenery; the south coast is a lure for keen sailors.

Although the train service between Exeter and London makes Devon the more accessible of the two counties, new road systems have vastly improved journeys to Corowall: Fowey and Falmouth are now little more than an hour away from Exmonth.

"Clients who come by car frequently arrive an hour and a half early because they have wrongly calculated how long the journey takes," says Jonathan Haward, of County Home Search in

"Cornwall has a charm of its own," he continues. "Three miles from Truro at Looe beach, you can still see oyster boats under sail, dredging for oysters - and that sort of thing is typical of the county. South Coruwall is a myriad little waterways which attract sailors of all standards. Novice sailors can safely take their boats out in creeks, and the more experienced can cross a more challenging sea between estuaries."

Near Helston, not far from both. Looe beach and the popular Helford river, the estate agent Miller is selling a Grade II-listed late-18th-century mansion on the edge of the town. The six-bedroom house, set in half an acre, is priced at £175,000.

It may not be for sale for long: estate agents are confident that the market is really beginning to take off again in the West Country, Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker's Exeter office, says: This summer was the busiest since 1988. Property which is competitively priced is attracting purchasers principally from London and the Home Counties. It seems that they are once again seeing the south west as an area offering both quality of life and value for money." Mr Thomas does not predict a boom, but he feels that the property market here will continue to get stronger, and he anticipates that these conditions will continue through the autumn and winter.

through Strutt & Parker, is Deer's

Tel: 0171 293 2222

o West, young man, and grow up with the countries Exmoor National Park. This is a 19th-century, four-bedroom farmhouse with five holiday cottages and 30 acres. Properties such as this are much in demand by those who may be retir-ing early, but still want some earnings.

Each cottage is fully equipped and has the use of a games room, a laundry room and a hard tennis court. At the moment, the cottages bring in about £19,500 a year, a figure that could be increased. The property also has stabling for nine horses. It is on the market for £400,000.

The same agent is also selling a

The same agent is also selling a Grade II-listed house, Tillworth House, near Hawkchurch, Axminster, in Devon. This was built in about 1840 and has five bedrooms and extensive cellars. The property also has a self-contained flat and cottage which in the past have been rented out as holiday lettings. It has 8.5 acres, a tennis court and a paddock, and offers are invited in excess of £475,000.

Peter Turner, of Fulfords' Plymouth Peter Turner, of Fulfords' Plymouth office, says: "We are finding that people from the south east of England and also from the Midlands are falling over themselves to get down to the south west. Inland, around the edge of Dartmoor, you have attractive countryside and it is easily commutable to Exeter."

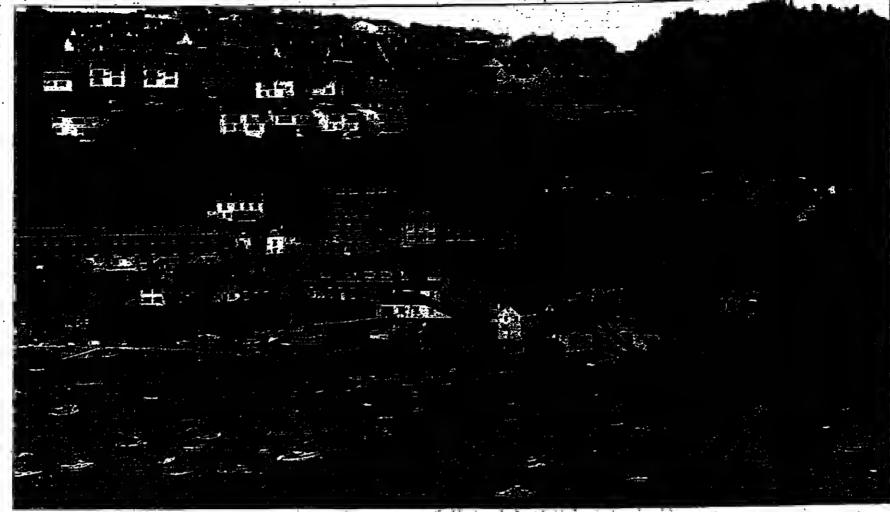
Here, a four-bedroom family house could cost between \$150,000

house could cost between £150,000 and £200,000. Meanwhile, anything on the waterside will go for a song, and would be eminently rentable if bought for investment. Fulfords is selling Drake House, which has six bedrooms, overlooking Hope Cove, near Salcombe in Devon, for £300.000.

There is a separate, two-bedroom coach house which could be let out for £480 a week in high season and £270 in low season. The main house itself could also be let, for a weekly rental of £1,180 at peak times of the holiday season.

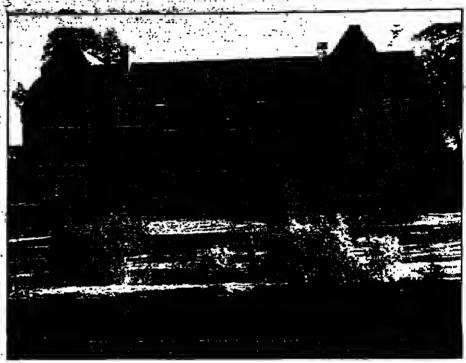
All this movement west is encouraging developers to build in the area. Alford Homes, part of the Prowling Group, has developments in Oke-hampton, Devon, and Saltash (known as the "gateway to the west"), in Cornwall. "Most of our customers move to the country to be away from the stresses of the city," says Graham Jackson, sales and marketing manager. "And we have certainly seen an increase of visitors from city locations at all our developments, especially from the Midlands."

Strutt & Parker (01392 215631); Miller (01872 74211); Fulfords (01 Buying a potential source of income 548 843731); County Home Search is a popular move. Just ou the market, (01872 223349); Alford Homes (01823 259777)





Top, Fowey, Comwall: full of charm and keen sallors. Above, A Grade-II listed 18th-century mansion near Helston, Comwall, on the market for £175,000. Right, Titworth House near Axminster in Devon - offers are



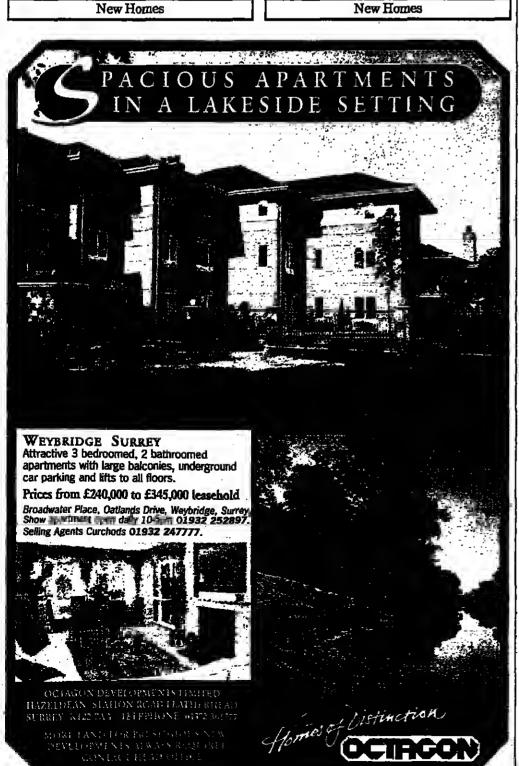
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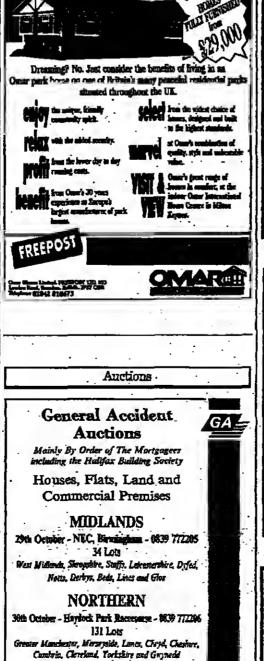
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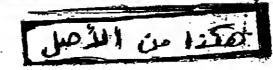
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Frankie's seven wins cost me £1m

Bookmaker Fred Done's biggest financial mistake



Bad news for bookies: Frankie Dettori

Frankie Dettori won all seven races at Ascot one day last month. But two decisions of mine made our own losses even worse.

Dooe Brothers runs 93 hettiog shops throughout the North-west, and we have the reputation of giving the biggest bonuses on multiple bets like Yankees and Canadians. At 7.30am on Saturday, September 28, my bet control manager and I were discussing bonuses for the day. At first, we decided we were

going to give a 50 per cent bonus on all Yankees in our early-morning price races, and 100 per cent on all Canadians. I was just going out, and then I changed my mind. I said: "Don't do it on the earlyprice races, do it on all the races at Ascot. And double the bonuses, because I think

we'll have a hig day today.

boous on Yankees and a 200 per cent bonus on Canadians." That week, I'd already made another decision. We were due to open a new shop on the coming Monday, but I rushed it forward to Saturday. That afternoon, I was home

watching raciog oo television. The bet control manager rang me up before the third race to say we'd taken several big hets on Dettori's borse Mark of Esteem - and they added up to £10,000. He said: "Dettori's already

won the first two races and, if be wins this, it'll be no good for us." So I knew we'd got some problems, but nothing very serious.

Then the bet control manager rang again just before the fourth race, and sald the phones were ringing off the hook. We had £6,000 riding on Dettori in that one, and it was a 12-1 chance. Then I knew

bookmakers We'll give a 100 per cent we'd got problems. The bet control manager called me back into the office, somethiog he hasn't had to do for 20 years. Then, of course, Dettori's fifth horse won. We were up to our armpits in it by

> Frankie won the sixth race. and we just sat there. There was nothing we could do. We'd shortened the odds as much as we could. We couldn't even lay off the money with other bookmakcrs, because we'd laid 10-1 on some of these borses in the morning, and now they were going off at 2-1, just because of the sheer weight of money. We would have had to put

our money hack. Word was getting round the shops that Dettori had won the first six. The shops were doing triple business, and the punters were still betting on Frankie. The atmosphere in

£200,000 or £300,000 to get

the shops was just electric and f500,000. Just to rub things in. of course Frankie gave us no the shop I'd rushed to get chance. He won the seventh

were in for £500,000. By 6.30, it bad crept up to £750,000. The problem was you just didn't know what the final liability was going to he - it could have been £2m or £3m. It was frightening. At 7.30, we finally found that we'd just topped the £1m. The biggest payout we did was to a guy who'd invested £12 with us. and walked away with £200,000. Another une het

On the Monday morning, 1 came in to work and wrote a full chequebouk out. The smallest cheque was for £15,000, and they went up 10

50p and won £57,000.

By 5 o'clock on the Monday out, and we'd blown £1m. The bonuses alone cost us

opeo on Saturday morning well. had lost £50,000 - another by 6 o'clock, we knew we brilliant piece of timing on my

Nobody's going to give a bookmaker any sympathy - I know that, but we gut it in the neck. It was like being a minus lottery winner. The small punters inved it, and they runhed

it in a bit. But you can't hlame them for that - it's all part of the game. You stick your neck out in husiness and, sometimes.

you get it chopped off.
The Sporting Life has done a videu of Dettori riding those seven winners, and I've just sent off for 20 copies to give to the punters who had a lucky day. I can't watch it myself it's a horror movie tu me."

night, everyone had been paid Fred Done of Done Brothers (Manchester) was talking to

Branson's blueprint

Clifford German examines Virgin's new pension contender

irgin Direct launches its long-awaited personal pension plan this weekend, although the timing, almost 10 years to the day after the great crash of 1987, seems to be entirely coincidental. The emphasis is on simplicity and flexibility. Virgin will not accept transfers from existing pension plans or from the state earningsrelated pension scheme.

But with Richard Branson's high profile image behind it, the product seems certain to establish itself as a hasic plank of pension planning for anyone who does not already have a long-term pensioo plao. It could also serve as a blueprint for the simplified pension products the Labour party is pledged to promote.

Contrary to some forecasts, Virgin will offer free, optional advice on the pension, based on a full financial fact-find, which could take roughly 40-45 mioutes over the phone. Anyone who takes out a Virgin personal pension will receive a six-monthly report on the progress of the investments and an annual financial review, but no one will be bombarded with brochures offering uther financial products and Virgin will not sell its customer lists for other salesmen to use.

Investors can put a minimum of £50 into the pension plan, and pay a flat charge of £2 per payment. Regular savers can put in £50 a month increasing by 10 per cent each year but if they prefer to stick with the same level of cootribution that is possible. They can put in regular contributions or lump sums at any time, and they can start, stop or restart contributions at any time without any

No-ooe pretends that £50 is ing and anything is best started early to take full advantage of compound growth.

Investors can put into a personal pension any amount up to the maxi-mum percentage of earned income specified by the Inland Revenue, start- brochure, assuming the standard ing at 17.5 per cent under 35 and ris- growth in the investments which all that in all cases the actual investments ing to 40 per cent for over-60s. Tax relief means that a standard rate taxpayer gets a £24 tax contribution for £76 actually invested, and top rate taxpayers get £40 for every £60 invested.

The mnney will be invested in Virgin's own existing UK tracker fund, which is managed by Norwich Equitable Life, the cheapest conven-



Planning for peace of mind: Money is switched out of shares into government stocks as retirement age nears Photograph: Tom Pilston

enough even over 30 years to buy a Union, with oo front-end charges, no full pension, but it is better than noth- bid-to-offer spreads, and subject only to the 1 per cent per annum mantracker fund itself. However, there is

ing in the first three years.

According to Virgin's own pension fund providers use in their projections, over 15 years the charges will take no more than 9 per cent of the funds invested for existing cus- in the FTSE 100 share index, which which compares with the charges of

oonal pension fund provider, and is insurance companies, where the cash significantly less than the broad indus-try average of around 15 per cent. Put agement charge which applies to the another way, buyers of a Virgin Direct pension plan who put in £250 a month a 2.5 per cent penalty for withdraw- for 15 years can expect a pot worth £84,000 after charges have been deducted, compared with an industry average of around £79,000 assuming

The Virgin pension funds invested will rise or fall in line with the shares compared with the with-profits pension funds offered by conventional substantial margin over time.

is invested in assets which are never precisely identified and the funds are smoothed to even out the inevitable fluctuations in the value of shares, fixed-interest stocks and property.

Virgin pension funds may well fluctuate more sharply, not least because the FISE 100 share index itself is liable to fall in the short run. grow by 9 per cent a year compound. as the 30 per cent slump 10 years ago graphically illustrates. But over a working lifetime, or even over 5-10 year periods in the past 50 years, tomers. New customers will expect to will make monitoring the perfor-pay about 10 per cent in charges, mance of the funds a piece of cake and it should outperform conventional risk-free savings plans by a

As an additional safeguard Virgin, unless specifically requested not to, will automatically switch an individual's pension fund out of the FTSE tracker fund into fixed-interest stocks over the final 10 years before the date

he or she expects to retire. This is to guard against the possibility that the fund will be at a relatively low ebb on the precise date the policyholder retires.

Virgin will not he providing the actual pension annuities, so there will be no inbuilt penalties for changing providers to get the best eventual pension the accumulated funds can buy, as frequently happens at

Illness cover costs down

Clifford German on PHI changes

nyone who has a permanent health insurance policy (to provide an income to policybolders who are too ill to work) which was taken out before last April should current gross income, and check they are not heing charged too much premium.

With effect from April, all benefits on individual policies are being paid free of tax until the policyholder returns to work, so the amount of cover now required for a given level of benefit is less than it was when the proceeds were taxable, and many policy-holders still paying the old rate may well be paying too much for cover they do not

According to Midland Bank, up to a million peo-ple with PHI cover may be would also exceed the ceil- assessment. ing which PHI providers want to pay.

of 70-75 per cent of gross income prior to the claim, less any state benefits which may he payable, so that policyholders do actually have an incentive to go back to work if they can.
Now the benefits are tax-

free the entitlement could well exceed these thresbolds policyholders could be beiter off not working. But the might think they are now paying too much.

Midland is not planning to renegotiate existing policies, but it is reducing the cover it offers on new policies to keep the actual henefits payable net to roughly the old gross levels. It is scaling down the premiums

It is also writing to its established PHI policyholders suggesting they could reduce the level of cover they pay fur from 75 per cent to 50 per cent of offering to refund the excess premiums paid since April.

Reducing the premiums will save the average policy-holder about £5 a month nr £1,800 over the lifetime of a 30-year policy. Nick Lomas.

spokesman for UNUM. based in Dorking and one of the big providers of PHI insurance, says it has reduced its cover for new policies from 75 per cent of gross income to a flat 50 per cent of gross salary, and has contacted independent financial advisers through whum most of its policies rs paying an average of £25 a are sold, suggesting they year too much for cover review the level of clients' which, under the new rules, cover at their next

But UNUM helieves that many policybolders have Most providers would substantially less than the originally cover a maximum recommended level of cover and should allow their hencfits in rise rather than mereduce their premiums.

Norwich Uniun, which now sets a ceiling on cover of 60 per cent of income hut disregards any state benefit when calculating the payouts, has also asked finan- a to cial advisers, who are and some long-standing responsible for selling 85-90 per cent of its pulicies, tn draw the attention of policymajority who want to work holders in the fact they could he over-insuring.

But providers are unanimnus in saying that only around 10 per cent of working people in the UK have PHI cover, and this is far too few in the light of the reduced levels of state bencfit now available to people who cannot work because of 150

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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Poor deals on the home loans front

In part two of our investigation into life assurance, Peter Rodgers and Nic Cicutti look at mortgages

concern when taking out a mortgage backed by an endowment or unit-linked policy is whether the eventual payout at maturity will be big enough to cover the whole of the debt.

Yet a large proportion of policies are surrendered long before they mature and the reality is that the value at an earlier stage matters just as much as the payout at maturity. Maybe 30 per cent, and perhaps even fewer, are held for the full term of the policy.

The rankings of mortgage repayment policies in the tables, devised by John Chapman, a former senior official of the Office of Fair Trading, demonstrate that investors often receive a poor deal for early surrender.

Moreover, some of the best former, known brand names, such as the announced a hig increase in sales of its investment products as a near the bottom of the performance tables.

or most people, the main full £12,000 that has gone into

Admittedly there is some life insurance cover involved in all policies, but this may account for 4 to 5 per cent of the premiums paid, and cannot explain the meagre returns from many

The importance of shopping around between insurance companies is demonstrated by dramatic differences in the amounts paid out when mortgage policies are surrendered early. This is a reflection of widely varying

charges and surrender penalties. The bottom performer in the table, Royal Insurance, would pay back only 62 per cent of the money invested after 10 years, less than half the £15,700 from Equitable Life, the top per-

The difference between top Prudential, which this week and bottom is even bigger if a mortgage policy is surrendered after three years. Royal pays result of its "Prudence" market- £1,160, less than a third of the ing campaign, are consistently £3,610 from Equitable Life's

with-profits endowment. The lowest surrender value of The tables show that at the all after three years is Allied Dunend of year three, only two com- bar's 25-year unit-linked policy, panies will pay back all the cash which pays hack a meagre £715 invested, and even after 10 years after investors have put in £3,600. only 20 out of the 32 repay the (Cash values are omitted from the

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unit-linked mortgage table.) Within the tables, it is clear

that some companies, such as Sun Life of Canada combine the pitfalls of low surrender values with the enticement of reasonably good final maturity values.

This is not surprising, since insurance company marketing departments need to be able to show a good final payout at the end of the mortgage period to new customers.

However, the high payout at the end is often at the expense of those who lapse early, who have paid high charges and suffered heavy surrender penalties.

In extreme cases, insurers come to rely on a large proportion of early surrenders on mortgages and pensions for their profitability, and this is why attempts to make them publish comprehensive tables showing the proportion of early surrenders bave been fiercely resisted in the insurance industry.

A company can in fact choose to take its profits early in the life of the policy, by imposing high surrender charges at that stage. In these circumstances, the larger the number of customers who surrender early, the higher the company's profit is likely to be.

Furthermore, early surrender penalties do not affect calculations of the return to maturity on a mortgage policy. The good rewards for the few who remain to the end, trumpeted by sales-men, may be cross-subsidised by penalties on those who quit

This makes it doubly important to look at all three surrender values when rating a company's overall performance and to pick those that offer good results after three and 10 years, as well as decent payouts at maturity. A good rule is to look bad.

very suspiciously at those that pay back little in the early years. Are they really working in the interests of their customers?

As the mortgage rankings show, for some big names such as the Pru, the payout is poor at every stage. It may be that high costs in running the business make it bard for the Pru to compete in its projections with the most efficient companies.

A few years ago, insurance companies marketing strategies relied on claims that by taking out an endowment or unit linked policy instead of a repayment mortgage, the debt would be repaid at the end and there would probably he a lump sum left over from the policy. Sometimes, those claims bave

proved bopelessly optimistic, because the returns on policies have fallen short of expectations, so much less is made nowadays of the prospects of a lump sum left over at the end. Insurers now try to keep monthly payments to the minimum necessary to hit the target of paying

off the mortgage.
One result of aiming low is that many bomeowners - such as those investing through the Lloyds Bank subsidiary Black Horse Financial Services - are being asked after a few years to top up the monthly contributions to their policies, simply to ensure they are not left with an unexpected debt at the end.

But the truth is that the risk of a shortfall at maturity is actually a minority problem, because such a large proportion of policyholders surrender early. These are the commonest victims of the insurance industry's charging policies, which is why Mr Chapman's rankings are so important for sorting out the good from the

| _ | 25-year m | ortgage | repayme | ent plan | - with-p | rofits |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Company | Surrender value at end of yr3 | Surrender value at end of yr10 | Maturity yalue | Projection ratings | Past performance ratings |
| | Fauitable Life | 2 610 | 15,700 | 75,300 A | +A+A+ | A+A+C |
| | Equitable Life | 3,610 | • | 64,837 | A+AB | AAB |
| | Standard Life | 3,494 | 14,769 | 66,700 | AAB | BBA |
| | Clerical Medical | 2,990 | 13,600 | 66,600 | A+BB | A+CB |
| | NFU Mutual | 3,600 | 12,200 | 69,900 | BBA | BBA |
| | Friends Provident | 2,390 | 11,900 | | BBA | BAB |
| | Scottish Provident | 1,970 | 13,000 | 68,077 | BAB | CAA |
| | Legal & General | 1,926 | 13,092 | 67,657 | A+AB | BBB |
| | Scottish Widows | 3,417 | 14,438 | 66,164 | AAB | CAC |
| | Sun Alliance | 2,760 | 13,800 | 66,000 | BAA | CCC |
| | Scottish Amicable | 1,956 | 13,707 | 69,160 | ABC | CBA |
| | Commercial Union | | 12,794 | 63,900 | BAC | CBB |
| | Scottish Mutual | 2,460 | 13,600 | 61,913 | | BC-B |
| | Eagle Star | 2,390 | 13,500 | 63,100 | BAC | BAA |
| | Wesleyan Assurance | - | 12,451 | 65,726 | BBB | BBC |
| | Norwich Union | 2,274 . | 13,454 | 63,530 | BAC | BAA |
| | General Accident | 2,206 | 11,568 | 66,517 | BBB | XXX |
| | Scottish Equitable | 2,050 | 13,400 | 63,100 | BAC | |
| | CIS | 2,190 | 11,200 | 68,900 | BCA | ABB |
| | Sun Life | 1,950 | 12,500 | 67,000 | BBB | CCC- |
| | AXA Equity & Law | 1,400 | 12,100 | 70,200 | CBA | XBA |
| | Medical Sickness | 2,490 | 10,600 | 67,546 | BCB | BBC |
| | Royal London | 2,142 | 9,411 | 65,022 | BC-B | BBA |
| | RNPFN | 1,694 | 9,775 | 71,994 | CCA+ | BAA+ |
| | Britannia Life | 1,800 | 12,600 | 64,400 | CBC | XBC |
| | Guardian Financial | 1,760 | 12,800 | 62,400 | CBC | XXX |
| | Britannic Assurance | e1,828 | 9,539 | 66,300 | CCB | BCC |
| | Colonial | 1,688 | 12,382 | 62,078 | CBC | CCC- |
| | Tunbridge Wells | 1,647 | 11,186 | 67,373 | CCB | CAA |
| | Prudential | 1,760 | 10,900 | 61,900 | CCC | CBB |
| | Scottish Life | 1,678 | 10,550 | 61,836 | CCC | CBB |
| | Sun Life Of Canada | | 8,970 | 67,900 | C-C-A | BBB |
| | Royal Insurance | 1,160 | 7,490 | 61,600 | C-C-C | XCA+ |
| | | 2,227 | | 66,082 | | |

Projections based on investment of £100 a month, starting at age 30 X=data not supplied

Investment funds are assumed to grow at 7.50% a year

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25-year mortgage repayment plans - unit-linked

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Company Projection ratings Equitable Life A+A+A+Scottish Widows A+AA Standard Life A+A+B Midland Life . AAA Woolwich Life BAA TSB Life AAC Scottish Mutual AAC Abbey National Life BBA Scottish Amicable BBA Legal & General **BBA** Clerical Medical BBA. Sun Life BBA Eagle Star **BBB** NatWest Life BBB Norwich Union BBB Friends Provident **BBB** Gan Life and Pensions **BBB** Britannia Life **BBB** Skandia Life **CBA** Guardian Financiai BBB Hambro Assured **BBC** Scottish Provident **BBC** Scottish Equitable BBC Canada Life **BBC** AXA Equity and Law CBB Scottish Life CCB MGM Assurance CCB Royal Insurance CCC C-C-C Allied Dunbar C-C-C-

Something to hide

Insurers have ways of concealing the true costs of policies

prospective policyholdtremendous improvement on what went one before.

But there is still considerable scope for simplifying the information and closing loopboles that allow some companies to hide the true costs of their policies.

One simple way in which companies do this is simply by not taking part in surveys aimed at comparing different charges. When Money Marketing published its recent survey on unit-linked investments, about 20 companies declined to supply the information requested of them.

Among them were AIG Life, Barclays Life, Century Life, Combill, Hill Samuel, Irish Life, London & Man-Provincial Life (now taken over by Abbey National).

Others were Refuge, Royal to 65 per ceut of a maturity Liverpool, Snn Life of Canada payout is the so-called "termi-

year to ensure that which has become entangled in disputes with many teachers ers are given details of charges who were wrongly advised to they will have to pay are a opt out of their occupational pensions and start private ones.

Some companies, like Bar-clays Life, said they did not have the resources to meet the survey's tight deadline. In some cases this rings true: Barclays has taken part in pre-vious surveys. Others claim they did not sell the policies concerned any longer. This is also true, but policyholders

might still want to know how their savings are performing. There is, in any case, plenty of scope for massaging the figures, as with-profits policies, show. The supposed attraction of such policies lies in the fact that they "smooth" returns, so that bad performance years are offset by good. However, this makes it near-impossible chester, Mercury Asset Man- to tell whether the estimated agement and National & charges over the lifetime of a policy will be as stated.

This is because between 28

he rules introduced last and Teachers' Assurance, nal bonus". The actual amount has been falling in real terms since the early 1990s.

Unit-linked policies also impose charges that can dou-ble the total initial charge from 5 or 6 per cent up to 12 per cent each year. This can be done in a variety of ways including "capital units", which amount to permanently heavier charges made on the first years' contributions.

Other novel cost structures include Scottish Equitable's "specific member charge". whereby extra fees are levied if countibutions are halted or reduced during a policy's lifetime. Yet because of unemployment, divorce and the offer of alternative company pension schemes, 8 per cent of Scottish Equitable policyholders stop their payments every year. Hundreds more reduce

their contributions. Scottish Equitable also charges more if a person increases premiums, despite companies constantly urging their policyholders to do so to ensure a decent retirement pot.

Skandia Life operates a similar "contribution servicing charge" based on the principle of penalising policyholders who miss their payments. Abbey Life, owned by Lloyds

Bank, charges policyholders an extra 6 per cent if they stop premiums in the first year, reducing to 1 per cent by year six. By this point, as the actuarial firm AKG points out, most pension holders have stopped their con-tributions, usually for perfectly

genuine reasons.

Sum Life gives policyholders an "extra fund injection" but only between eight and five years before retirement. This boost improves the value of the fund at retirement. It also allows Sun Life to project far lower over the entire life of a contract. But given that only 13 per cent of all policies are still kept ing after 20 years, the full Sun Life loyalty bonus is paid to one in seven policyholders.

Everyone else pays extra. . A similar policy is adopted by Albany Life, owned by US insurer Metropolitan Life.

The early surrender value game

10-year savings plan - with-profits

| Surrender value end of year 1 |
|----------------------------------|
| 1,200 |
| 1,170 |
| 1.118 |
| 1.093 |
| 949 |
| |
| ٥ |
| 0 |
| 115 |
| 171 |
| 180 |
| 589 |
| |

10-year maximum investment plan - unit-linked

| Top companies | Surrender value end of year 1 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Equitable Life | 1.178 |
| Standard Life | 1,118 |
| Scottish Widows | 1.093 |
| RNPFN | 996 |
| Medical Sickness | . 874 |
| Bottom companies | |
| Abbey Life | 0 |
| Altied Dunbar | ō |
| Hambros Assured | 259 |
| Scottish Equitable | 298 |
| Sun Life | 363 |
| Average | 639 |

ed on investment of £100 a month, starting age 30 stment funds assumed to grow at 7.5% a year

o companies really want their policy-holders to keep their contributions going until their policies mature? Most insurers probably do prefer to see payments kept up for

the whole period. But are some maximising their returns in the early stages by combining high charges with heavy surrender penalties in the first few years?

For these companies, there could be a positive advantage if few customers stay on to maturity and a large number lapse. Any insurance company with both low early surrender values and a high lapse rate is clearly taking much of its profit at an early stage.

(above) for two types of 10- he adopted in the UK.

year savings plan show the best and worst surrender

Unfortunately, companies are sensitive about publishing lapse rates and these are not yet generally available. But Mr Chapman says if there is a high lapse rate and a low early surrender value, it is a cause for concern about the company.

Mr Chapman points out that those considering investing with such companies face the double risk of the early loss of their money and of being sold an inappropriate policy.

In Singapore, companies with high lapse rates have not been allowed to recruit more sales staff until their lapse rates improve. Maybe The summary tables such shock treatment could

How the rating system works

he basis of John Chap. As few as 30 per cent of results are therefore a short future projections are matched man's rating system is the fact that charges rather than investment performance are the primary determinant of policyholder returns when buying a pension, mortgage or savings policy from a life insurance

Investment results are important, of course. However, the arithmetic of charges puts it into perspective. The charges reduce the overall yield of a policy by the equivalent of between 1 and 5 percentage points a year. For those cashed in early, the reduction in yield can be 10 per cent a year or more.

A simple analysis of a company's final performance—the cash delivered when a policy matures - is not the best way of measuring how good it is, formance. Variations in the

investors may hold a policy to cut to showing the differences maturity, and it is vital to know what they will he paid should they pull out early.

Mr Chapman's rating system takes this into account, by rating companies on how much they pay back investors, or give in pension transfer value, in the early stages of a policy, part way through it and at maturity. First, the system rates a

company's past performance, based on the amount paid at the three stages. The same calculations are done again, based on the company's own projections of future payouts. Since charges are the dominant factor, the projections

in charges at each stage. These sums are in the first three columns of the main mortgage table (facing page). But Mr Chapman does not rely on a confusing array of

numbers. Instead, he allocates a letter from A+, the best, down to C-, the worst. A company with an A+A+A+ rating is excellent at every stage. A rating of CAA or CCA means a policyholder will be treated cated by calculating how far a company deviates up or down from the midpoint of all the

companies in the category. assume that every company The top handful of compahas the same investment pernies in the main and summary

by past performance. In the rest of each table, the rankings are based on companies' projections of future charges alone. John Chapman's pioncering

methods for comparing performance between companies have been adopted by Money Marketing the magazine for independent financial inter-mediaries, which asked KPMG to carry out detailed calculations for each company. badly on early surrender but Mr Chapman's analysis for well if the policy is kept to The Independent uses these maturity. The letters are allocalculations.

Fuller performance tables for unit-linked and with-profits policies are available from Money Marketing Customer Services, St Giles House, 50 Poland Street, London WIV tables are those where good 4AX, for £3.75 each inc pap.

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| Cheltenham & Glouctr | 0800.717505 | Direct 30 | 30 day P | £100 | 5.50 | Year |
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| Coventry BS | 0345 665522 | Fixed Rate Bond | 30/11/99 | £2,500 £1,000 | 7.30F | Year |
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| Sun Banking Corp | 01438 744505 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | €8.575 | 7.50F | Year |
| NatWest Bank | 0800 200400 0645 720721 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £5,000 £1,000 | 7.45F | Year |
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| West Bronwich B5 | 0121 607 2415 | Fixed Rate TESSA | 5 years | £3,000 | 7.45F | Year |
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| AIG Life | 0181 680 7172 | Maria (Proposition of | 1 year | £5,000 | 4.65FN | Year |
| Pinnacle Insurance | 0181.207.9007 | | 2 year | £3,000 | 5.40FN | Year |
| Pinnacle Insurance | 0181 207 9907 | | 3 years | 000,63 | 5.60FN | Year |
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| N'castle Bank Gibralfar Northern Rock Guern | 01481 714600 | Nova Access Offshore 30 | Instant 30 day . | £25,000 £25,000 | 6.35 | Year |
| Derbyshire (IOM) Ltd | 01624 663432 | 90 Day Notice | 90 Day | £25,000 | 6.55 | Year |
| Northern Rock, Guern | 01481 714600 | Millennium Bond | 1/1/00 | £10,000 | 7.50F | Year |
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| Investment Accounts | | | 1 month | £20 £500 | 4.75 5.25 | Year |
| | | | | £25,000 | 5.50 | Year Year |
| Income Bonds | | · | 3 months | £25,000 £2,000 | 6.00 | Month |
| | | | | £25,000 | 6.25 | Month |
| Capital Bond | | Series J | 5 years | £100 . | 6.65F | Maturi |
| First Option Bonds | | | 12 months | 21,000 | 6.00F | Year |
| Pensioner's G'teed Inco | ma Rond | Series 3 | 5 year | £20,000 £500 | 6.25F 7.00F | Year Month |
| NS Certificates (tax-free | ••• | 43rd issue | 5 year | £100 | 5.35F | Maturi |
| | | 9th Index linked | 5 year | £100 | 2,50+qsi | |
| Children's Bond | | Issue H | 5 year | €25 | 6.75F | Maturi |



fear of finance

be confirmed. Financial service providers, faced with an increasingly disloyal customer plans, which individual customer base, are struggling to identify tomers owned. their best customers as a first step to positive action to try and retain them.

Research shows that it costs to retain on old one, so financial services providers are more products.

aware as never before that customers they used to take for granted must be assessed. If they fit the profile of a valuable customer, they must be cossetted and cajoled with improved services and, where appropriate, with financial incentives to stop them looking elsewhere.

Banks already get indirect evidence of customers prepar-ing to defect. Warning signs include people who stop paying in their monthly salaries and reduce the number of cheques they write and the standing orders they authorise.

In some cases, of course, the banks may not care about these early warnings. Current accounts are not necessarily all tomers continually overdraw by small amounts and trigger the full range of penalty charges the hanks can levy against them.

likely to write to you or phone, to inquire whether you are unhappy and if so why, and whether you might like a premier banking service. Barclays

potential buyers of financial must consider the possibility products, if they can be corthat you are being luken for rectly identified and targeted. granted, and the time has now The banks have always had access to a great deal of information about their customers

f you have always suspected simply by interpreting bank that your bank - or your statements, but they did not building society, credit card provider or insurance company - does not value your cus-tom, your suspicions may soon of financial products, from

New systems now offered to banks by specialist firms like the London-based Custumer Value Company will enable at least four times as much to banks to co-ordinate informatwin a new customer as it does tion and draw up profiles of customers most likely to buy

Credit card companies are also suffering a sharp increase in customer disloyalty, as cardholders are attracted to new eards offering cheaper rates, higher borrowing limits, lower annual fees and rewards for using cards more frequently. Established card companies increasingly write tu customers whose cards show signs of going dormant reminding them of the card's advantages and offering them higher spending limits.

Insurance companies are increasingly affected by the loss of renewal business which they used to take for granted. Renewal premiums in most cases have been reduced subthat profitable unless cus-stantially during the past two or three years in a conscious effort to retain loyal customers with good claims records.

Premiums are now showing distinct signs of turning up again, But if you send the coded but insurers may well have to warnings through your offer discounts for early account, and you are consid-renewals in the hope of retainered wealthy or active enough ing good business. No-claims to represent real selling oppor- bonuses, traditional in the motor tunities, these days the bank is insurance business, are becoming increasingly cummon on household buildings and contents insurance in an attempt to retain good customers.

If you feel you have been a recently introduced one, called loyal customer of many years Additions, and Natwest is standing however, and have expected to launch one shortly. nor claimed back more than Good customers are also you have paid in premiums, you

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The index-linked puzzle

Why do investors ignore a guaranteed real return of 3.5 per cent?

hy don't more peo-ple buy index-linked gilts? The questioo has loog been a puzzie. Now it seems more pertinent than ever. All the latest economic indicators suggest that inflationary expectations are

North News

(10) y

starting to rise again.
The Bank of England is already pressing openly for higher interest rates, and the money markets are setting the price of gilts and interest rate futures at levels which imply that higher rates are oo the cards for oext year. Unemployment is falling faster than expected, fuelling expectations that the ecooomy is approaching the point where it cannot grow much further without inflation reviving.

Oo top of that we have all the risks of a pre-election period, with consumer spending booming, tax cuts in the offing, and unaffordable rises in public spending again a real possibility. Only the strength of sterling, this month's favourite currency, is currently acting to dampen inflationary expectations.

Put all this together and it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the risks of higher inflation are iodeed rising.



This ought to be an enviroo-ment in which index-linked gilts prosper.

And so, to a degree, they have been. The real yield oo long term index-linked gilts has this year fallen helow 3.5 per ceot, down from its peak of 4.5 per ceot five years

For the last three years the hig investment institutions have gradually been increasing their holdings of indexlinked gilts. As a result, prices of index-linked gilts are now trading close to their year's

Yet most of this revival has passed the individual investor by. Most individuals, by and large, do not buy indexput their money either into building societies, equities or into insurance products of various kinds.

Conventional gilts are traditionally oot very popular with ordinary investors either, and it may he that index-linked are simply too complicated to catch on. Certainly, most people seem blissfully unaware that they exist, let alooe how they

Why should this be so? Cynics may say it is because, unlike unit trusts, nobody has a vested interest in selfing or advertising them. A simpler reason may be that iovestors are simply oot accustomed to think in terms of real - rather than nominal

It is much easier to think in terms of actual cash returns rather than on the purchasing power which that cash represents. A 3.5 per cent "real" return does not sound either very meaningful or very impressive. Yet it is the equivalent of 6.5 per cent in mooey terms (adding the current inflation rate of 3.0 per cent).

The great attraction of an index-linked gilt is that, if you

linked gilts, preferring to hold it until its maturity date, investors have been misled by the long-term real return on both the income you receive and the capital you have been available oo shares in invested are guaranteed to he the 1980s into projectiog fully protected against

> No other investment offers such an effective guarantee well behind both shares and of both income and principal. As the guarantee comes from the Government, the money is even more secure than it would be in a bank or building society. The guaranteed return - 3.5 per cent in real terms - is at least double what you currently get on a huilding society deposit

Add to that the other advaotages of huying any kind of gilt - you can buy them direct or at a post office for the tiniest of commissions, with no brokers or advisers to pay - and their oeglect seems bizarre.

· A 3.5 per ceot real return may not sound like much, but giveo how risk-averse many investors are, it is by oo means unattractive. Not for nothing are index-linked gilts are dubbed "the ultimate defensive investment". As Stepheo Lofthouse

points out in an excellent oew book about personal investing, it may be that

the high returns which have them forward indefinitely. It is true that returns from index-linked gilts have lagged conventional gifts in the last 10 years.

The annual total return from an index-linked gilt in the ten years to 1995, for example, was 7.9 per cent. against 14.2 per cent for con-vectional gilts and 18.6 per cent for equities. But this is only part of the story. Investment is about

risk as well as reward. It so happens that the last 10 years have been characterised by conditions - falling interest rates and inflation, rising corporate profitability - which have heen favourable to shares, broadly kind to conventional gilts and least suited to index-

linked gilts.
Yet the one certainty is that oeither shares nor conventinoal gilts can sustain the kind of high real returns recently achieved forever. It is a historical aberration which must one day come to

an end. As Lofthouse points out,

John Wiley & Sons.

loose change

Proshare, the non profitmaking organisation to promote wider share ownership has negotiated a series of deals which will allow new members to trade shares at discount commission rates through Fidelity, NatWest Stockbrokers and Birmingham-based ShareLink.

Memhership costs UK residents £34.95 for a year if paid by direct debit, or £39.95 otherwise. Overseas resideots pay another £15. Call-0171-394-5200 or write to Library Chambers, 13/14 Basinghall St., Loodoo EC2 for application forms.

off the commission on the first trade if they opeo a Stockbroking Service or Stockbroking Plus account, or off the cost of the first trade after opening a Fidelity Active Trader Account (which offers special low rates to investors.

who trade at least 25 times a charge to set up the vear io UK securities), plus a 50 per cent discount on the first year's service fee.

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is 1 per cent up to £2.500 to 0.75 per cent between £2,500 and £5,000 and a up to £75,000. Details on 0121-200-4591.

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Vesta's return – Just add TV

By Meg Carter

The vogue for breathing new life into old brands from the Sixties and Seventies goes from strength to strength. First it was Spam. Then Spangles. And now Vesta Meals, the ultimate in easy to prepare ready meals. Vesta is back on TV after an absence of eight years with an advertising campaign that takes the form of a spoof rockumentary series charting the fortunes of Britain's most consis-tently unsuccessful rock band, The Vestas.

In a series of five, three-minute long ads, we learn how lead singer Wally Wallis and his pals fare from the mid-60s beat boom through to their glam-rock phase in the early Seventies. Each installment features past and present interviews and archive footage. The result is a joy, not least thanks to the po-faced commentary of Johnnie Walker and a Vestas' family tree constructed by rock archivist Pete Frame. Further installments have yet to be made, including the band's heavy metal period (Iron Vesta).

Episodes one to five are running at the same time each Friday night for the next month taking up an entire commercial break. Each is plugged in the preceding week by ten-second trailers. Tour T-shirts and a CD have already been produced and the band, fronted by real-life singer Les Payne (once voted Britain's least successful musician). may even go on tour in the new year.

Yet despite the grand scale of the idea, the campaign has been constructed on an advertising shoestring. "An extremely modest budget," is how Sara Bennison, Vesta account director at advertising agency Ammirati Purls Lintas, describes the £250,000 total cost. "We planned a single 20 second commercial, but the idea mushroomed," she explains. "But we did it all for the agreed budget, calling in many favours to do so."

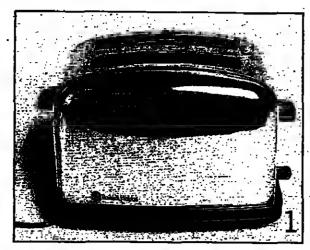
Vesta wants to introduce itself to a new generation, sbe says. Launched back in 1962, the brand was the first taste of Indian cuisine for many. However, the growth since of eating out and arrival in the UK of a broader range of exotic world cuisine took the edge off subsequent sales.

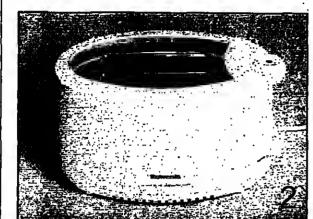
Vesta's boom time was the Seventies, when it became a staple of student larders through-out the land, says Vesta spokesperson Helen Park, "We enjoyed a steady and loyal following, notably amongst former students who introduced their brands to kids. We bave since been less able to attract a new following."

So. Vesta tightened its belt, pulling out of TV advertising in 1988. But, in the words of Bennison: "It refused to die". And with the recent nostalgia fad for Seventies' brands, Vesta bas decided the time is now for resurrection. Although success will only be evident in six to 12 months, the company is quietly confident, "Vesta enjoys a 70 per cent share (by volume) of the £20m dried ambient food* market," Park says. "If The Vestas take off as we hope, we could double (our) volume."

*Dried ambient foods are neither frozen or "wet". Nor are they reconstituted, like Pot Noodle (for which you just add water). They are, in effect, a meal kit, comprising sauce and noo-dies or rice, which are boiled, simmered or fried. Mmmm.

Six of the best toasters





Classic Coolwall 2 slice chrome toaster, £34.99, by Russell Hobbs. The coolwall combines traditional styling with modern features, including removable crumb tray and a frozen bread selector button. The best things definitely come in small packages. Available from Argos, branches nationwide; for other stockists

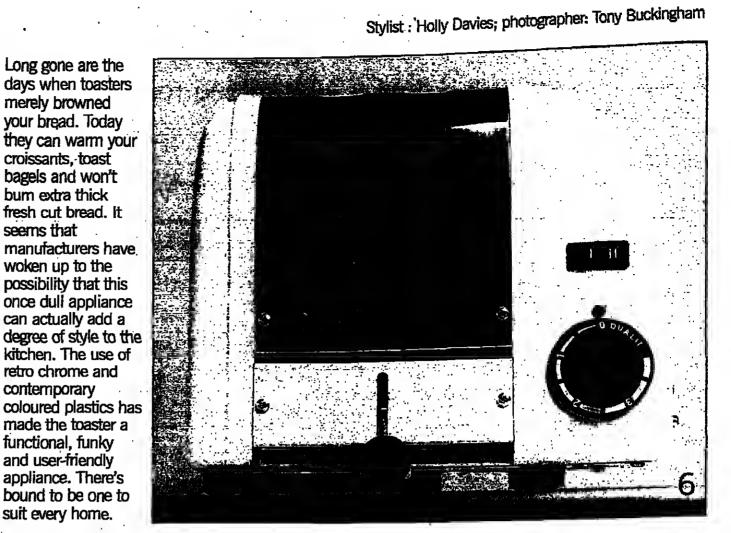
White oval 2 slice toaster £19.99, by Rowenta. The simplicity of its design and its economical price make this a good basic toaster. The little round slider is nice to use and the addition of a cancel button is always useful. Available from selected John Lewis Stores nationwide; for other stockists call 01604 760291.

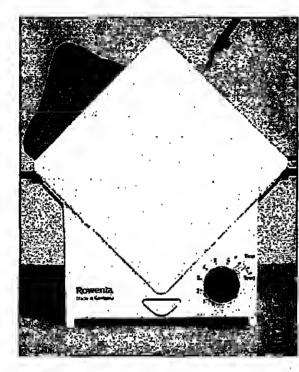
White Quadro 2 slice toaster with bun warmer, £42.99, Rowenta. The most unusual design of the bunch. This is a small and compact toaster good for anyone who hates clutter in the kitchen. The addition of a bun warming rack make those con-tinental breakfasts all the more inviting. Selected John Lewis Stores nationwide; for other stockists call 01604 760291.

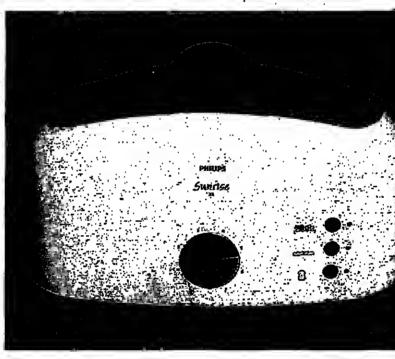
Cream Sunrise XL toaster with opaque amber lid, £49.95, Philips. Philips have come up trumps with this big beauty. It's very easy to use and loves thick crusty bread. It comes with the addition of a bun warming rack and lid making this groovy design all the more useful. Available from Comet stores nationwide. For other stockists call 0181-689

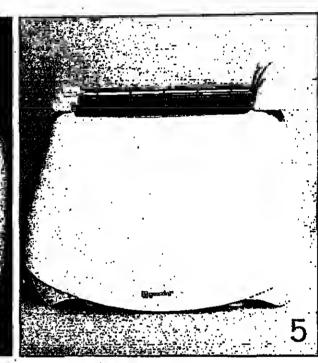
Primrose yellow Gildo toaster, £74.95, Guzzini. This Italian prima donna likes to be used. The bandles mean that you can check your toast at any time to ensure perfeet browning. Other colours available include pistachio and dove grey. Available from The Conran Sbop, Michelin House, \$1 Fulham Road, London SW3 (enquiries 0171 589-7401).

Mint green and chrome 2 slice toaster, £120, Dualit. Always a favourite. the Dualit is the classic toaster. used by caterers and style guru's alike. Normally seen in chrome but now available in mint, primrose, lavender and cream. Available from Heals, Tottenham Court Rd. London W1. For other stockists call 0171-639-5271.









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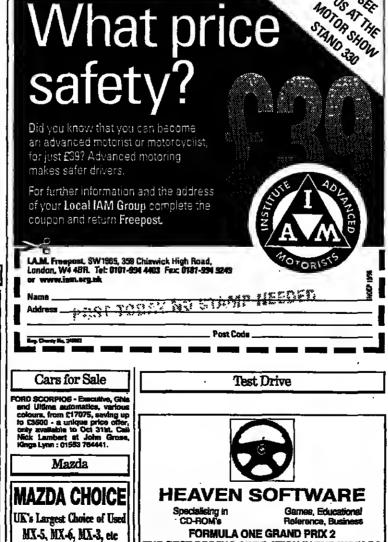
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Motor Services

Ford in the spotlight

Gavin Green visits the British Motor Show

Back in the Sixties, the British Motor Show was probably the world's best. Our car industry was big and dynamic, and the show was beld at Earls Court, which was then trendy and hip rather than full of bedsits and tramps. And if the metal wasn't interesting enough, you could always look at the flesh - Earls Court was like Page Three on the podium. Being in London, the show was also more of a magnet for both beautiful people and car industry movers and shakers than today's show site, Birmingham.

Nowadays, sadly, the British Motor Show is internationally a second-rater. The only world debuts held at this year's Birmingham Show, which opened yesterday, were for a new Asquith Motor Carriage (who?) a black cab proposal, a new Marcos (which, to all intents and purposes, is only sold in Britain anyway), a new TVR (ditto) and - that's it. All the important new cars had their unveilings at the Paris Show a fortnight ago.

But while motoring hacks and those few Brits who ventured to the Parc des Expositions may have seen the new motors before, most British punters bave not. And, this autumn, there are a lot of intriguing new cars about.

The twin stars of the show are, ironically, both at least part-British. The Jaguar XK8 is the latest creation from Britain's favourite sportscar maker: the last new Jaguar sportster was unveiled 21 years ago. Who cares if it's been seen in Paris? It's just gone on sale, it looks great, and advance Orders are at record levels.

Ford now calls the shots at Jaguar, and is also starting to Porsche Boxster - a poor man's citizens and children £5. pump out winners of its own. It 911. Much less beautiful, but



When Earl's Court was the centre of the world

has two of the best new offerings in Birmingham: the baby Ka and the revised Mondeo.

The Ka, probably the single most interesting car at the NEC, is one of the boldest small cars in years, and certainly the bravest yet from Ford. It is aimed at the young and trendy. but, like all cars so directed, will probably be bought mainly by old folk who like to think young.

It deserves to be a big success. The Mondeo has been heavily reworked, especially the styling. Vast new ovoid headlamps meet big oval grille meet teardrop tail lamps: the one-time design dullard has come over all bold,

But motor shows, like fashion shows, are really all about style. And if you want to ogle something that looks good, head straight for the Mercedes stand and see the new SLK roadster, soon for these shores. Its stand-and-gawk gorgeous looks will be allied to a reasonable £30,000-ish price tag.

Less beautiful, but still mem-

still kind of handsome for a Volvo, is the Swedes' new C70 coupe, further confirmation of Volvo's determination of shed off its dull-but-dependable image. Val Kilmer, set to play The Saint in an upcoming movie, will be driving a C70 on screen, 30 years or so after Simon Templar fought the haddies and wooed the babes in his P1800, the last half-decent looking car that Volvo made.

Unlike the recent British Fashion Shows, the British Motor Show is not about to elevated back onto the world stage. Only a move back to London and a revival of our native car industry (one unlikely, the other very unlikely) would see to that, But there are lots of interesting cars at the NEC this year. Which, at the end of the day, probably matters more than where they were seen first.

The British International Motor Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Open until 27 October 9.30am-7pm (5.30pm orable, is the similarly priced on the last day). Adults £9, senior

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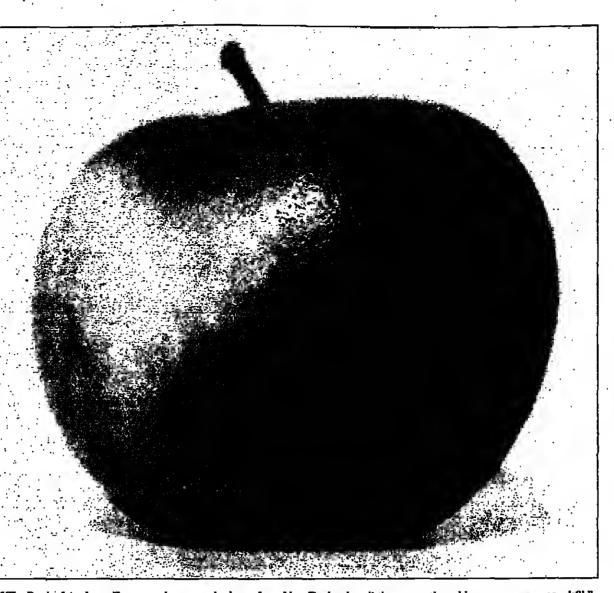
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HE BEST DRIVING SIMULATION IN THE WORLD?

Gran Comi

5

By Siobhan Dolan



he typical British attitude towards homegrown fruit, and apples in particular, could be compared to living with a cordon bleu chef and ordering pizza every night. Despite the fact that there are more than 2,000 varieties of Eoglish apple, most of us would be hard pressed to name more than one (the good old Cox. no doubt). And even though British apples are widely regarded as the best in the world, we're happy to load our trolleys with uni-

formly bland foreign imports.

Apple Day on 21 October is a timely reminder of what we're missing. Hundreds of events up and down the country this weekend, from apple identification sessions to tastings, cider pressing and urchard rambles, will celebrate the rich history of our "national fruit".

Sue Clifford from Common Ground, the organisation which started the event in 1990, explains the motivation behind the initiative. "We vere concerned about the disappearance of orchards and wanted to bring fruit back into the national consciousness," she says. "We came across this extraordinary fact, that over the years there have been 6,000 varieties of apple. This says a lot about our ingenuity in relation to nature."

For Sales

Joan Morgan, co-author of The Book of Apples, and a trustee of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust in Paversham, Kent - bome to The National Apple Collection, which oumbers more than 2,000 varieties - is in no doubt as to the superiority of our bomegrown fruit. Over the past 20 years she claims to have tasted and annotated almost all of the world's apples. "Nowhere else is there quite such a wonderful spectrum as in England," she insists, "and nowhere else demonstrates the unique seasonal progression from the earliest apples like the Irisb Peach and Discovery, to the Worcester with its lovely strawberry flavour, to the Ellison Orange with a hint of aniseed, to the very savoury James Grieve, and

then the Cox with its intense, aromatic quality." What a shame, then, that this diversity is so poorly reflected in most of our supermarkets, par-ticularly at the moment with the harvest season in full swing. A tour around some of the main protagonists earlier this week revealed that Asda boasted six English varieties out of a total of 10; Waitrose had four out of 10, Sainsbury's had four out of 11, while Safeway carried three out of eight.

"What's so sad," according to Sue Clifford, "is that we've allowed aggressive marketing from

France and very good science from New Zealand all those mentioned in your oewspaper ads?' to push our apples eveo off the autumn sbelves, which is mad.

However, she's adamant that it's not simply a case of railing against foreign imports. "Our argument isn't at all a xenophobic one. It's about locality, so we'd like to link with people in France and New Zealand and talk about the importance of growing and eating apples locally, in their season, and keeping the culture of that place well and

Paul Smith from Brogdale, reveals that one in 10 of those who fill in questioonaires when they visit the orchards ask "Why can't we get these apples in the shops?" He is in no doubt as to the reasoo. "It's far easier for the supermarkets to get 500 tons from one source than go around to a lot of suppliers getting smaller amounts from each."

Sue Clifford from Common Ground reckons that we must all, as consumers, accept some responsibility. "We've tried not to say that it's the European Community's fault or the supermar-kets' fault as we're all implicated. If we're buying these things, then we're all party to the process. We should say to the retailers. Where are the varieties you had last year?, Where are Orchards, Creech St Michael, Somerset

And persistence can reap rewards. Asda, for example, has for the first time this year, installed an English Apple and Pear Buyer at Wakeley Dis-tribution in Rainham Kent from where he is able to access local suppliers and growers at first hand. Meanwhile, Brogdale is currently negotiating with one of the big retailers in an effort to make the fruits of its orchards more widely available.

"In theory, the only months that we can't eat our own apples are May, June and half of July," says Sue Clifford. "The rest of the year, you're either picking them and eating them straight from the tree, and right through until late April and early May you're eating the last of the late picking." Who knows, in the not too distant future, our

own Granny Giffard could be giving Granny Smith a run for her money.

Apple Day events around the country today, Sun. Details from Common Ground, (0171-379 3109) Brogdale Horticultural Trust, Faversham, Kent (01795 535286) Mail order English apples from: Crapes Farm.

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Egremont Russet:

Expert: Very distinctive flavour. Almost smoky tannic quality develops after keeping. Our testers: "Delicious, slightly fizzy with a woody texture. Perfect with cheese": "Firm, slightly spicy, tart and a good texture"; "Yuck,"

Red Pippin

Expert: Has a cox-like flavour; sweet but with plenty of balancing acidity.

Our testers: "Fresh and sharp with a subtle flavour"; "Bit floral, but nice and crunchy"; "Flavour of an English summer".

Royal Gala

Expert: Perfumed, honeyed and juicy. Our testers: "Reassuringly middle of the road, but very pleasant and juicy"; "Excel-leot for applejuice".

Expert: Intensely flavoured, honeyed. sweet, crisp juicy flesh. Widely available now but don't really come into their prime until November - may be too tart for

Our testers: "Suitably tart, tastiest of all";
"Too floury io texture"; "Lack of texture
and slight sourness disappointing."

Cox's Orange Pippin

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Our testers: "Flesh too floury"; "Nice and tart, but too soft"; "Nutty, good with cheese."

The Expert: Joan Morgan, author of The Book of Apples and probably the only person alive to have tasted and annotated almost every one of the world's apple

The apples: Andy Willis, Asda's English apple buyer made a selection from Asda's orchards in Kent. For more information about Asda's English apple week, call 0500-

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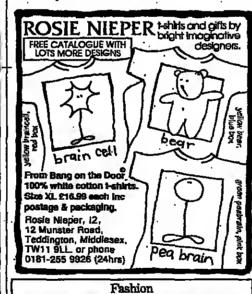
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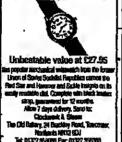
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I want to be a Power Ranger



Text & photos by Mary Dunkin

en's mum may not approve of his chosen fancy dress outfit, but 99,999 other parents in the last couple of years have forked out £29.99 so that their offspring can prance around as a Power Ranger. According to Clive Jones, marketing director of Dekker toys, the largest manufacturer of childreo's dressing up clothes in Europe, these days childreo want character outfits. Since 1990, wheo the film Batman was released the demand for cowboys and Indians and Robin Hoods has dwindled - they've even discontinued the clown. The boys want to be Batman, Spiderman and Superman and the girls want to be Esmerelda, from Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Fifteen years ago children might have had one cowboy outfit - now it's not uncommon for

them to have several character outfits. Meanwhile, in o little shop in Kensington mummies are still buying cowboys and nurses and fairy outfits by the hundred. Janey Hillborough and Hannah Doherty started by selling traditional toys and games by mail order. Last year they added dressing up outfits to their list and opened a shop, "The Hill Toy Company".

They doo't do specific characters – their outfits are more generic. Hannah feels the film Precihontas had an influence oo the sale of wigwams and Indian brave outfits, while 101 Dalmatians probably contributed to the popularity of Dalmatian outfits. Meanwhile, in o little shop in Kensington

contributed to the popularity of Dalmatian outfits.

"Last year we were fantastically successful our traditional fairy" says Hannah. "And we did brilliantly well with the Dalmatians."

Max wears a guardsman's outfit, £32.95, from The Hill Toy Co. "I don't go to dressing-up parties. When I get home from school I change into jeans and a T-shirt and a denim shirt. When I go to bed I wear swimming trunks and a non-sleeved T-shirt. I don't watch Power Rangers any more. I liked Batman Forever, but I wouldn't like to dress up as

Ben wears a Power Ranger playsuit, £29,99 from Hamleys. "My mummy thinks Power Rangers are violent. I think they're quite amusing and Daddy thinks they're violent and Hannah [aka Garden Fairy] thinks they're excellent. I used to watch them on television, but when I came upstairs after watching them I wrecked the bedroom when I was fighting with my sister and my mum said 'if you don't stop fighting. I'm oot letting you watch *Power Rangers*'. So we went on and oo fighting and that was the col of us watching Power. Rangers. But I'm oot said - I like watching Paddington Bear. It's my birthday tomorrow. I can't wait to be six - I can beat-up my friend, George."

Hannah's Fairy outfit came from Cheeky Monkeys: dress, £24.99, and shoes £16.99. The wand £1.25, is from Non Stop Party Shop, "I like to dress up as ballerinas, queens, princesses and rabbits. I doo't have any dressingup clothes at home - I only have toys and books. I especially like

Where to get it

The Hill Toy Company: well made traditional dressing up outfits – guards, fairies, nurses and animals. 71 Abingdon Road, London W8 (0171-937 8797). Ring 01765 689955 for catalogue.

Cheeky Monkeys: has a good range of animal costumes, fairy outfits, and accessories. 202 Kensington Park Road, Loodoo W11, (0171-792 9022); and 24 Abbeville Road, London SW4, (0181-673 5215)

The Disney Store: Soow White, Cinderella, Pochahootas, Captain Hook et al. The Disney Store, 140-4 Regent St.Loodon W1 (0171-287 6558). Call 01923 220022 for local branches.

Fiona's Esmerelda costume, £24.99, Hamleys.

The Hill Toy Co, "I pretend to be a nurse at home and my sister pre-tends to be a doctor. My friend lies on my bed and I test her reflexes. I think when you get older you get kind of bored of the babyish things like fairy costumes and princesses. I was 5 or 6 wheo I wore them now my four-year-old sister wears

hook £1.25 are from Non Stop

Letterbox transfurm your child ioto a giraffe, elephant or lion. Call 01872 580 885 for a catalogue

Dekker Toys: mostly character outfits for 2-year-olds to 6 plus. Toys R Us, Argos. Call 01727-844421 for nearest stockist.

Non-Stop Party Shop: great for accessories, especially for Hal-lowe'en. 216 Kensington High Street, London (III71-937 7200)

Hamleys has a strong selection of children's fancy dress outfits such as Esmerelda (see left). 88-96 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 3161).

Charlie Crow Costumes specialise in furry animal outfits for babies tu 12-year-olds. Call 01782-417133 for local stockists.

Katie's Nurse's uniform, £15.99, and bag, £21.95 are both from

Adam's Pirate costume. £17.99, The hat, £5.99, and

Party Shop. "My favourite thing to dress as is a cowboy, but I hardly ever dress up when I'm at home because my hrother doesn't waot to. I used to go to fancy dress parties, but not any more. They're for four- or fiveyear-olds - and I'm six. The last one I went to I dressed up as a clown. It's fun dressing up as a pirate because they're quite a lot more naughty than clowns

Zavina and her twin sister wear Dalmation suits, £22,95 from The Hill Toy Co. "I like the Dalmatian costume but it's a bit scratchy. I want to wear it at parties and at school."

From a grandfather's gift to high tech wizardry

Brigid McConville looks at the latest crop of pre-school products at Nursery World

he second Nursery World Exhibition opened its doors at London's Earls Court Olympia yesterday and proved that although money can't buy you love, when it comes to small children, it can buy a great deal of care and entertainment, not to mention safety. As today's overworked parents struggle to find "quality time" for their children, their speoding on educational games, toys, books and other materials for the very young has gone through the roof. And the pre-school market has been quick to respond.

Although this is only the second time that the pre-school industry has turned out in force, the show is twice as hig as last year's - which attracted 11,000 visitors - and next year, two exhibitions are planned.

Although this exhibition is aimed at childcare professionals, it offers parents plenty to look at

or huy. The big oames like Berol and Lego are all there, but it's the original ideas from individual newcomers that make the exhibition

worth a visit. Rebecca Sandy was a teacher until this summer when the pictures and stories she invented for her infant class became so popular that she gave up her job to launch her own company, Ten Town Teaching.

The stories of the Ten Town characters help children to remember how to write their oumbers without reversing them. There is Tommy 2, servant to King 1, whose sbape "kneels" to tie the kingly shoelaces, while Fiona 5 does five knee bends as she goes for a jog and so on.

Rebecca invested £15,000 of her savings in the first print-run of Ten Town products, which pareots' book. Half have been sold since July - mostly by word of mouth - which means that Rebecca has already got her money back. "It was a buge leap of faith," she says, "but it's paid

The genesis of Twoey Toys was also one of homemade creations turned by popular demand into a family husiness. It was a doting grandfather's handcrafted gift to his granddaughter - first a shop, then a blackboard which grew into an attractive range of flatpacked play furniture, now sought after by ourseries and playgroups as well as parents.

Such ideas are obviously useful, and will certainly appeal to traditionalists. At the other end of the spectrum the show is a launch pad for a mind boggling range of computer programmes aimed at pre-school children. Two of Britain's biggest computer software

companies, Apple UK and Acorn, have joined forces to create the company Xemplar which is setting up a "software village" at the Nursery World Exibition.

SEMERC (Special Education Micro Electronics Resource Centre) offers a range of more than 400 products for primary and special oeeds children. "Children with learning difficulties who may not be able to hold a peo can hit a switch," points out Margaret
Thompson from SEMERC. "Texts can be made larger for visually impaired children, or they can hear what is being typed. Spell checkers and word predictioo (where the screen suggests

options) can also help children to learn."

Talking Stories software from Sherston amongst others - aims to hring the Oxford Reading Tree stories to life with animation and sound. Publishers Dorling Kindersley have a

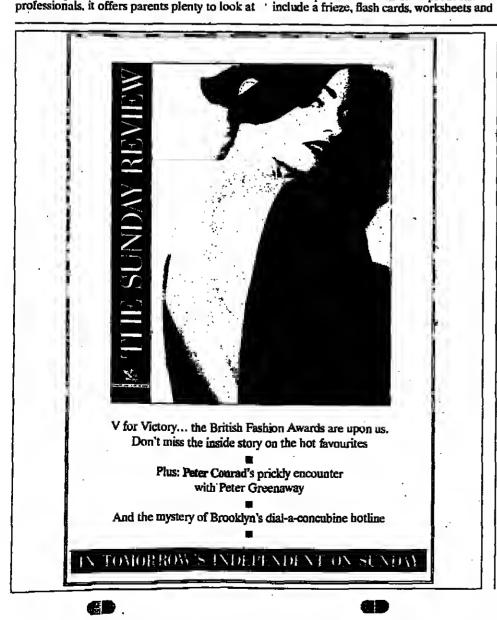
broad range of CD ROMs on display too: in PB Bear's Birthday Party, based on the bestselling book, the words are highlighted as the story is read, eocouraging childreo to make the link between the spoken and written word.

But what's wrong with a buman helper making this link, you may well ask?
"Computers are oo substitute for sitting on mum's knee," agrees Alan Bennett of Xemplar, "but Information Technology for pre-school children can help with their phonic skills and early counting". And of course, if your child starts using keyboards at aged three or four, the software companies are likely to have a customer for life.

HINE CHIMAIN

of Fr Walter

Ten Town Teaching 01785 211284 Twocy Toys 016974 78420 SEMERC 0161 6274469



good thing

Shopping list fridge magnets, £7.99

Make running out of milk and forgetting to buy the car's food a thing of the past. Write your shopping list oo the fridge. This magnetic kit comes with all

manner of shop-

ping suggestions and a few blank cards for delicacies undreamt of by the it's creators.

The General Trading Co, call 0171-730 0411

mad thing The Little Voodoo Kit £8.99

This malicious little outfit comes replete with book, doll and pins but the emphasis is less on the black arts than on new age "revenge therapy for the over-stressed". The temptation is to stab furiously at the intimate body parts of your hate object, but with this kit you can refine your skills to subtle and specific probings. Tips for cases of exreme tension include naming a bag of jelly babies after that special person and putting them through a mincer. Professional help's probably hest at that point. Published by Boxtree at £8.99



checkout news: shop with mother

ilkinson discount chain is cur-rently offering its customers the rently offering its customers the latest in supermarket fun for all the family—toddler-sized shopping trolleys. The discount retailer hopes that if children join their mothers strolling round the store with their own mini trolleys, they'll be less likely to get bored and scream that they want to go home. Of course cynics might argue that it's simply a way to ensure that pareots are tantrumed into buying a child's shopping selection. Not so, according to Gordon Brown, managing director. of Wilkinson, who claims the trolleys are part of a new concept of trading - the aim being to bring the whole family into stores. "Giving children their own trolleys is part of that process." Wilkinson has already enriched the

"whole family" shopping experience through the introduction of the kids trol-

"Children were dashing around the store with the trolleys. The assistant said they'd had oo end of complaints but that head office were set on keeping them." she says. English tourists may have seen child-sized

leys at the bigger stores in its 220-plus

chain. According to Mr Brown the

response has been positive. But then Mr

Brown has not met Joyce Knight a sep-

tugeoariao, of Harlow, Essex. Mrs

Knight's encounter with the trolleys at her

local branch involved ten-year-olds rac-

ing in the aisles and a child bearing down

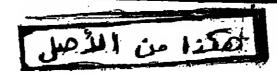
on her at full pelt aiming for her bad leg

shopping trolleys in some French supermarkets. The French children trot obedieotly alongside Maman, apparently untempted by adult legs. However, the more laissez-faire style of parenting favoured by Britons may result in a new variant of troiley rage if the idea catches on here.

But at the momeot that seems unlikely. Tesco and Asda both tried out kids-trolleys in a handful of stores and rapidly withdrew them after customer complaints. The Tesco shoppers were alarmed by checkout tantrums wheo the children realised they were not going to be allowed to keep the goodies they'd selected. An Asda spokesman said parents didn't like the trol-leys because children tended to wander uff

making it harder to keep an eye un them. Over at Wilkinson, Mr Brown remains a mini trolley supporter, "No one has brought any adverse reactions to the trolleys to my attention, Childen certainly love them and there have been no accidents involving them. We want to make shopping at Wilkinson a life-time experi-

Jenny Knight



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One of the curiosities of this game is that the most natural-looking play in the world can be completely wrong. This deal illustrates the point well. I am quite sure that nine players out of 10 would go astray. North passed, East (playing five-card majors) opened One Spade and South, giving up hope of better things, overcalled with Four Hearts. This sounded pre-emptive to West and, with little excuse, he doubled to end the auction and led 44.

Declarer played the jack from dummy - would you not do the same? - and East intelligently played low. South could hardly play another spade at this point for fear of ruffs and he continued with three top trumps and exited with a fourth.

West won and made the right switch to a club. After that, there was no way for declarer to escape a spade loser and careful defence by East led to a (very fortunate) one trick defeat.

You have all the clues. How should South have played? The \$8 from dummy at trick one is the right card! This is covered by the nine but when in dummy later, after clearing the trumps, declarer can run the ♣J. Whether this is covered or not, he now loses no spade tricks and duly lands his contract

News quiz of the week

1. Who did Toby Graham and Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon both come face to face with this week?

2. Who waltzed into a court but may have some time to wait before learning whether she will waitz out again with half a million pounds?

3. Which dyslexic died this week after giving us all So Much Love?

4. "Able red Len axed" - well, his name wasn't Len, actually, but if you rearrange the letters you should find out who we're talking about.

5. Which former dissident, oow an Israeli Cahinet minister (pictured right) said: "When he's up against 25 Israeli Jews, he knew it would be tough"? Who was the persoo he was referring to, and what had the speaker just done to justify his statement?

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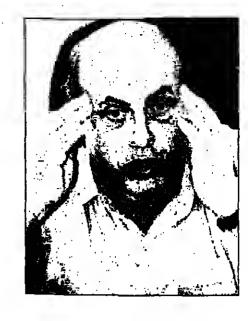
A champion who this week was stripped of his title and banned for a year for using an illegal substance, is considering taking legal action against the judge, who happened to be his brother. The illegal substance was cardboard. What was the sport?

7. Where did those feet, in ancient times, walk, and why is the evidence no longer apparent?

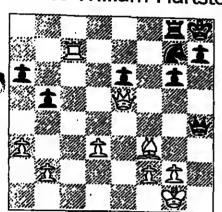
8. Which two sporting giants settled a contest for a £100,001 prize, then started negotiations for a rematch?

 A watercolour painting by a famous hand fetched £2,500 at an auction in Brigg, two-and-a-half times its estimate. Who painted it?

10. What do a taxi driver, a vet, a diplomat, a tube driver and oow a vicar have in common?



Chess William Hartston



In the last round of the Monarch Assurance Open on the Isle of Man, the top seed, Vladeslav Tkachiev, oeeded to win against Andrew Ledger to overtake his oppooent and take first prize. He achieved it in a controlled attacking style culminating in a neat finish.

In the diagram position, after Black's 16 31st move. White had tied his opponent 11 down but still needed to find a way to deliver the fatal blow. An obvious and strong plan is to go after the Q-side pawns with Bb7 or Ra7, but Tkachiev found a far more incisive way to finish

Stage one - drive the rook from g8: accomplished with 32.d4 Qh6 33.d5 exd5 3.24, Bxd5 Rf8.

Stage two - cut out any nonsense with Oc1+: achieved with 35.g3 (giving the

king a secure hiding place on g2).

Stage three – exploit Black's back-rank problems: 35...g5 36.Rf7! Rc8 (36...Rxf7 37.Qb8+! forces mate) 37.Qc7! Rc8 (37...Rxc7 38.Rf8 mate) 38.Qc7! Rg8 39.Rf8 resigns. Here are the full moves of the game, a good illustration of how a top grandmaster can keep enough tension and strategic complexity in a position to play for a win without risk:

White: Vladeslav Tkachiev

| Black: A | ndrew Ledger |
|------------|----------------|
| 1 e4 c6 | 21 Qf4 f6 |
| 2 Nc3 d5 | 22 exf6 Nxf6 |
| 3 Nf3 Bg4 | 23 Qe5 cxd3 |
| 4 h3 Bxf3 | 24 cxd3 Nxe4 |
| 5 Oxf3 Nf6 | 25 Bxe7 Oxe7 |
| 6 d3 e6 | 26 Re4 Rfd8 |
| 7 Qg3 Nbd7 | 27 Rxd4 Rxd4 |
| 8 Be2 b5 | 28 Qxd4 Rd8 |
| 9 a3 Qb6 | 29 Qe5 a6 |
| 0 0-0 g6 | 30 Rc1 Qxh4 |
| 1 Bf4 Be7 | 31 Rc7 Rg8 |
| 2 B£3 0-0 | 32 d4 Qh6 |
| Rfe1 Rac8 | 33 d5 exd5 |
| 4 h4 Kh8 | 34 Bxd5 Rf8 |
| 5 Re2 d4 | 35 g3 g5 |
| 6 Nb1 c5 | 36 Rf7 Rc8 |
| 7 Nd2 c4 | 37 Qc7 Re8 |
| 3 e5 Ne8 | 38 Qe7 Rg8 |
| Ne4 Ng7 | 39 Rf8 resigns |
| | |

Competition puzzles

Numeracy

Alphanumeric teasers:

If "26 L of the A" is "26 Letters of the Alphabet", can you work out what the missing words are in the following?

16 CR of a T 3 S D A in an E T 32 DF at WWF

By oow you should be getting the hang of this numbers and

letters genre, so here is a fur-ther selection with a distinctly more literary bent than the previous set.

6 Cin Sofan A 3 M of A D 2 G of V

Literacy

Perplexity

As if you hadn't had enough, here are some more - perhaps more perplexing than before. Can you fill in the incomplete words in the following numerical puzzles?

12 W in the P S 7LinILW 1QMatlE

A prize of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary will be awarded to the first correct set of answers opened on 31 October, Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL

3 October Perplexity answers: No other number has the property required. Winner: GJ Bradley, for an elegant proof of the fact.

You may have missed ...

... what a week it's been for inventions:

In Britain, we have seen the development of the artificial sweaty foot, invented by a leather company in Northamptonshire to assist shoe design. According to a report, an average pair of feet will pro-duce in a day's trekking enough sweat to fill a soft drinks can.

In Japan, however, they have developed a laptop computer that can withstand being dropped from a height of 70cm (28 inches) or having coffee spilled on it.

Other inventions this year: From Hungary: the musical condom that plays a tune when unrolled.

From Malaysia, the "Tara Clamp", a disposable circumcision device said to resemble a corkscrew and available in different sizes to fit various ages.

From Austria, the "liquid condom", which the user paints on to provide skintight protection.

From Switzerland, a battery-powered suitcase on which a traveller may ride. From Denmark, the "olf", a unit of smell for assessing environmental health and the need for ventilating the workplace.

Quiz of the week answers 1. Their mothers, Clare Short and Madonna
2. Mary Walz, suing Barings for her homus
3. Beryl Reid (title of her autobiography)
4. Alexander Lebed 5. Anatoly Sharansky beat
Garry Kasparov in a chess simultaneous display 6. Conkers 7. Dinosaur footprints were stolen from a sacred Aborigine site in Australia 8. Libel battles of Terry Venables and Alan Sugar 9. Adolf Huler 10, All winners of Mastermind

concise crossword No.3122 Saturday 19 October

DOWN ACROSS

Be indebted (3) Twosomes (5) Newcomer (8) Given money (4) Toys which play tunes

10 Part of foot (6) 12 Attractive (6) 14 Morbid anxiety about health (12)

18 Survey (4) 19 Have influence over (8) 20 Topic (5) 21 Attention (3)

Padded seat (7) Academic hurdles (5) Danger (5) Beseech (7)

Grasp (5)
Breakfast table item (3-11 Beat comprehensively

12 Central American

country (6) 13 Farm vehicle (7) 15 Sailing vessel (5) 16 Screen of privet etc (5) 17 Scope (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Queue, 4 Doss (Kndos), 8 Haircut, 9 Irate, 10 Ruin, 11 San Diego, 12 Inexperienced, 15 Splendid, 17 Undo, 20 Cobra, 21 Academy, 22 Sloe, 23 Yeast, DOWN: 1 Quinine, 2 Each, 3 Extraordinary, 4 Dwindle, 5 Space, 6 Char, 7 Behold, 12 Insect, 13 Pancake, 14 Concert, 16 Libel, 18 Onyx, 19 Saga.

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The big picture

Sat 9pm ITV

This Capraesque political satire, with its witty Oscar-nominated screenplay by Gary Ross, was unjustly overlooked on release in this country - despite the kind of cast (Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Charles Grodin) of which art-circuit cults are made. Maybe it only goes to show how deeply unfashionable politics are these days. Kline plays both the ruthless US President and his lookalike, who is persuaded to stand in when the president falls il).

Television preview RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert

Loving Sat 9.30pm BBC2 Didn't You Used to be Satan Sat 11.25pm C4 The Natural World Sun 5.55pm BBC2 Prime Suspect 5 Sun 9.15pm ITV Everyman Sun 10.50pm BBC1

he mystery novel must... consist of the plausible actions of plausible people in plausible circumstances" - Raymond Chandler. The Prime Suspect films - for all their socio-political victims to his Rottweilers. I may be wrong, and supercontent - are primarily mystery novels, adapted and villains like "The Street" do exist, but he seemed to updated for 1990s television. The same rules apply. me to be a fictional construct, and one that unbal-Chandler went on to add, in case you're wondering just how plausible a character like Philip Marlowe is. ances Prime Suspect's otherwise present-and-correct traditional strengths. It's a major misgiving, but there's

still plenty here to keep you watching.

No misgivings about Loving (Sat BBC2), the most enjoyable Screen Two I've seen in a long while. It's a careful and skilful adaptation of the now almost foridea was that by showing the police as they are, a few hard political realities (sexism, racism and homophobia in the force, for example) could be tackled along with a cracking good story. Or rather the story was pitched in such a way as to uproot these issues gotten novelist Henry Green's satire about a group of domestic servants in an Anglo-Irish stately home in 1941. Ireland, of course, was neutral at the time. Green's ear for dialogue - and the tortured working-class speech patterns of the time - is beautifully reproduced by Maggie Wadey. Mark Rylance is superb as the cunning but essentially weak butler, and the seriously sexy Georgina Cates captivates as the

housemaid unpredictably wavening between know-

ingness and childish innocence. A delight.

trouble starts when we meet the central villain, a . The pick of tonight's Fame Factor is Didn't You ferrety gang leader called "The Street", a greasy-haired Machiavelli with a penchant for feeding his the now grown-up Linda Blair, erstwhile child starticities to his Portugal and Allander Land and the start when of The Exorcist. A hotly disputed cocaine bust when she was 18 ended Blair's lucrative mainstream career, restricting her to B-movie horror films ever since.

Everyman (Sun BBC1) explores how, when faced in 1945 with the aftermath of the Nazi genocide, some lews decided not just to get mad, but also to get even. Selected assassinations of SS officers ensued, and one group decided to poison the water supplies of German cities, starting with Hamburg and Nuremberg. They infiltrated the requisite pumping stations, and

this week's film tells how it didn't in the end happen.
The Natural World (Sun BBC2) spreads the littleknown fact that penginns are not only beautiful (when shot underwater, at least), but also exist happily in propical climes as well as on those more familiar ice packs. If you can watch the footage here of a penguin waddling around a leafy forest glade without a smile on your face, then you're probably the sort of person who could never see the funny side of Monty Python.



The big match Newcastle Utd v Man Utd Sun 3pm, Sky Sports 1

it was Peter Schmeichel who really won this fixture last year for the Reds after Cantona had put them 1-0 ahead. This year, the great Dane is up against the lethally in-form Alan Shearer (above). But the smart money is on a repeat of Manchester's lone Gallic goal victory.



Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.05 The Pink Panther Show (R) (3570277). 7.25 News and Weather (9377567).

7.30 Children's 8BC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Robinson Sucroe. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S)

 S. Live and Kicking. East 17 perform their latest single and England Cricket Captain Mike Atherton is the Hot Seat guest. Plus, Australian actor and singer, Craig McLachlan (S) (447 66890). 12.12 Weather (7211838).

12.15 Grandstand 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News 1.05 Golf: coverage of the semi-finals of the the World Match Play from Wentworth. Commentary by Peter Alliss, Alex Hay and Dave Marr. 1.20 Motorcycling: the final two races in the British Superbike championship from Donington Park. 1.45 Snooker: second-round action from the Grand Prix in Bournemouth, 2,30 Golf, More from Wentworth, 4,40 Final Score (S) (95147797).

5.20 News and Weather (2341635). * 5.30 Local News and Sport (894635). 5.35 Cartoon (964432).

5.45 Children in Need. Ainsley Harriott previews the BBC's annual appeal, with the help of boyband popsters, Boyzone (S) (960616).

5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game (S) (553432). * 6.55 Noel's House Party. Craig McLachlan, Frank Bruno

and Michelle Smith ring his bell (S) (483664).

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Robson and Jerome perform their latest single (S) (401529).

8.05 Casualty. A youngster gets over-enthusiastic about surfing the Internet as a gang of tikes picks on a Second World War veteran. Meanwhile, back with the regularity. Kate faces up to the serious pages of the the regulars, Kate faces up to the seriousness of her

husband's condition (S) (316884). *
8.55 News and Sport (Followed by Weather) (187242). 9.14 National Lottery Update (262109). 9.15 Due South. Fraser is assigned to look after a Canadian diplomat's daughter in this double-length

epsiode of the light-hearted mountie-in-Chicago series (S) (771093). * 10.45 Match of the Day, Highlights of this afternoon's East Midlands derby between Nottingham Forest

and Derby County (S) (9311819). * 11.50 They Think It's All Over. Cornedian Mark Hurst and cricketer Dermot Reeve join regulars Lee Hurst, Rory McGrath, Gary Lineker and David Gower in a repeat of last Thursday's edition of the

comedy sports quiz (R) (S) (321513). *
12.20 Top of the Pops. From last night, with Lightning Seeds, Boyzone, Boo Radleys, Mark Morrison, Bally Sagoo and 5neaker Pimps (R) (S) (7201372). * 12.55 TEM Curse of the Crimson Altar (Vernon Sewel) 1968 UK). Lurid title for dull-as-ditchwater horror

movie that marked the octogenarian Boris Karloff's fina) completed movie. Even supported by Christopher Lee and scream queen Barbara Steele. there was no fighting the script (1645827). 2.20 Weather (8954469). To 2.25am.

BBC2

that "plausibility is a matter of style".

as it went along.

The style of the first few Prime Suspect films was scrupulously realistic - Helen Mirren leading the way

with her dressed-down portrayal of DS Tennison. The

Prime Suspect 5 (Sun ITV) begins promisingly enough, with Tennison transferred from the Met to

Manchester, where her first big case involves a drugs

turf war in the city's grim housing projects. The

6.55 Lulu Belle (Leslie Fenton 1948 US). The recently deceased Dorothy Lamour swapped the light comedy of the "Road" movies for this melodrama which casts her as a singer who dumps her husband for the open road (4747074).

8.20 Open University: Questions of National Identity (5962426). 9.10 Seeing Through Maths (2140797). 9.35 Rocky Shores: Life on the Edge

10.00 Chanalya (S) (1105068). 10.35 Network East, Saeed Jaffrey reports on 100 years of Indian cinema (S) (9836971). 11.20 Bollywood or Bust! Hindi movie quiz (3801068).

11.50 Wildlife on Two. The wild otters of the Shetland Islands (R) (S) (5422548). *

12.20 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Bazza reviews Tin Cup, Dragonheart and Breaking the Waves. From last Monday (R) (S) (9844677). *

12.45 First Road to Singapore (Victor Schertzinger 1940 US). The first tearning of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope in what was originally intended as a vehicle for Dorothy Lamour (8026074). 2.10 Eliki Meet Me in Las Vegas (Roy Rowland 1956 US) First of two movies set in the giftzy desert city stars Dan Dailey as a compulsive gambler whose fortunes are boosted by a meeting with dancer Cyd Charisse. Guest artists include Lena Home, Frankie

Laine, Debbie Reynolds and an uncredited Frank Sinatra (746797). 4.00 Stead Viva Las Vegas (George Sidney 1964 US).

One of the best Evis Presley movies finds him teamed with Ann-Margaret in a gorgeously photographed Las Vegas. The plot? Oh, something about Evis's racing driver character needing a new

ngine for his car (8892971). 5.20 TOTP 2 (S) (9004432). 6.05 Rhodes, 5/6, Second-sitting Cecil Rhodes (R) (S)

(251722).7.00 News and Sport (Followed by Weather) (729277). 7.15 Assignment. Report highlighting the dangers of over-working as the European Commission unveils plans to impose new restrictions protecting those who are forced to work more than 48 hours a week (S) (808074). *

8.00 What the Papers Say. Jim White from the Guardian reads the papers (S) (921513). 8.10 Snooker: Grand Prix (S) (417567).

9.00 Have I Got News for You. Nigel Lawson and Mark Little guest from last night (R) (S) (8155). * 9.30 Screen Two: Loving. See Preview, above (S) (202155). *

11.05 Video Diaries: Child Slave Rescue. New series opens with the estimable Kailash Satyarthi, whose underfunded direct-action group struggles to rescue some of the estimated 10 million child slaves at work in India today. Mind-boggling misery and inspirational bravery (S) (954155). 12.05 International Golf: World Matchplay (3574865).

12.45 Snooker: Grand Prix (S) (1916933). 1.50 Weather (2385933). To 1.55am.

ITV/London

Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alert! 7.10 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.50 Dragon Flyz (7341093).

9.25 Wow. Scouse popsters Space provide the music (S) (26996839)

11.00 The Noise. Boyzone take Andi Peters on a tour of their native Dublin, Ian Broudle of the Lightning Seeds talks about the success of his Euro 96 single. "Three Lions", and there are performances by the Spice Girls and Suede (S) (8345). 11.30 The Chart Show (S) (77548).

12.30 Love Sites. Magazine focusing on teenage emotional problems. Where do they start? Oh, with mixed-race relationships and annoying habits

(472/1).

1.00 News, Weather (48709797). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (48708068). *

1.10 Movies, Games and Videos (6965529).

1.45 The Making of Wind in the Willows (510364).

2.15 The Making of Wind in the Willows (510364).

2.15 The Making of Wind in the Willows (510364).

2.16 The Making of Wind in the Willows (510364).

2.17 The Making of Wind in the Willows (510364). but their relationship suffers when they clash over a

married couple's right to stay in a caravan on his field, Sub-Carry On Brit-laughs, starring Juliet Mills, Ronald Lewis and Joan Sims (622258). 3.50 SeaQuest 2032. Submerged drama. Henderson rescues two children from their damaged submarine (S) (8805635). *

4.45 News and Results (Then Weather) (7518161). *
5.05 Local News, Sport, Weather (5529161). *
5.20 Baywatch. Mitch falls for the spoilt socialite who has just bought him at the Baywatch Bachelor Auction. Wise man (S) (4921451). *

6.15 Gladiators. It's a Knockout for body sculptors (S) (912513). *
7.15 Blind Date (Followed by National Lottery Result)
(S) (918797). *
8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (301703). *

8.45 News and National Lottery Update (Followed by Weather) (265074). *

8,59 LWT Weather (283432). 9.00 Dave (Ivan Reitman 1993 US). Starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver. See The Big Picture, above (S) (4364). * 11.00 BISS Hudson Hawk (Michael Lehmann 1991

U5). Self-indulgent cornedy adventure starting Bruce Willis (who co-scripted) as a wise-cracking cat burglar treshly out of prison who is blackmailed into stealing some Leonardo paintings by baddies Richard E Grant and Sandra Bernhard (636249). 12.55 Furmy Business. Lee Hurst and Joe Pasquale do their stuff (S) (6279020).

1.25 Tropical Heat. An evil electronics wizard plots the perfect crime (R) (S) (6573594). 2.20 The Chart Show (R) (S) (7465020).

3.10 El News Review (3550372). 4.00 God's Gift (R) (4313285). 4.55 Night Shift (R) (S) (15111204). 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (8329020). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.50 The Magic School Bus (S) (6376971). Really Wild Animals. Seahorses, cuttlefish, squid and sea otters (S) (3576451). 7.45 First Edition (S) (8434838)

8.00 Transworld Sport (51797). 9.00 The Morning Line, Horse-racing tips (S) (53068). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (36258).

11.00 Blitz! American football highlights (S) (49722). 12.00 Rawhide (51426).

1.00 EMM Wonder Man (Bruce Humberstone 1945 US). One of Danny Kaye's best comedy musicals finds him in the dual role of timid scholar and his outgoing gangster brother, whose slaying he has to avenge. Handsomely mounted, and good support from the likes of Virginia Mayo, Vera-Elben and Donald Woods (19114513). *

Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. Brough Scott introduces the 3.00, 3.35, 4.15 and 4.45 races (S) (26548722).

(S) (25548722).
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (R) (S) (3052513). *
6.30 Right to Reply (S) (242). *
7.00 News Summary and Weather (819105).
7.05 The People's Parliament. This week's motion is that to reduce inequality in Britain, bosses should not be allowed to earn more than 10 times that of their levest paid werker (S) (451180). their lowest-paid worker (S) (451180). *
8.00 Kangaroos - Faces in the Mob. Emmy award-

winning film following a year in the life of a group of wild Eastern Grey kangaroos (R) (S) (9819). *

9.00 ER. Ross and Hathaway must cope with a young Russian girl with Aids whose adoptive mother abandons her on hearing the news. (R) (S)

9.55 Father Ted. Douga! hangs up his rollerblades for. Lent in the surrea! Irish priest sitcom (R) (S)

(522093), *

10.25 NYPO Blue. Kelly's replacement, Detective Bobby Strnore (Jimmy Smits), starts his first day – as the third series begins a re-run (R) (S) (285722). *

11.25 Fame Factor: Didn't You Used to Be Satan? See

Preview, above (S) (808432). 11.55 Fame Factor; Rock Wives. The press presents their lives as a constant round of shopping, parties and photo opportunities, But as rock wives like Sharon Osboume (Ozzy's wife), Victoria Clarke (Shane MacGowan's girlfriend), Shirley Watts (Charlie's

wife for 32 years) and Angie Bowie (David's ex-) reveal, the truth is very different (S) (298616). 12.55 Family Fame Factor: All About Eve (Joseph L. Mankiewicz 1950 US). One of the most enjoyable movies of all time, Mankiewicz's witty and wordy drama contains a brilliant performance from Bette Davis as the insecure and ageing Broadway actress being insidiously undermined by treacherous

newcomer, Anne Baxter (88979597). * 3.30 Fame Factor: Battersea Bardot. Repeated profile of Carol White, star of such films as Up The Junction and Poor Colv (R) (S) (94952). *.
4.00 Fame Factor: Celebrity. Animated short on

tonight's big topic (44965846). To 4.05am.

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (47277), 1.10 Bench Volkeyball (309832-59)
1.40 International Tourny, Cars (14-117971), 2.10
Sturtmaters (69983-15), 2.50 The Motor Show (1316838), 12.55am Cartal Knowledge (7215575), 1.55am Film: The Uniforguen (5-1379631), 4.00am Helter Skelter (9162594), 4.50am Sound Bites (75112933), 5.00-5.30am World of Salling (15372),

CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm hovies. Games and
Videos (47277). 1.10 Thunder in Paradise
(8776093). 2.05 Carbon (1824):426). 2.15 Film:
The Captain's Table (961529). 3.45 Armolf
(487242). 5.10 Channel 3 North East: Full Time
(2135819). Yorks: Scoreling (2135819). 1.25am
Orach (6467662). 1.50am War and Remembrance
(271285). 3.45am Late and Loud (6393662),
4.40-5.30am Murder, She Wrote (5367136).

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (4727.*) 1.10 Carloon (27878141). 1.25 Dimosaus (48388613). 1.55 Eastern Mix (144131551, 2.25 Mixines, Games, and Videos (27547548). 2.55 Almoid (8846068). 3.50 RoboCop (8805635). 5.10 The Central Match — Goals Edra (2135819), 4.00am Central Johfnder (9186556), 5.20-5.30am Aslan Eye (5183730),

HTV
As London except: 12.30pm West: Go Getters
(3855884), Wakes Cakhomic Officest (94995659).
12.45 Wakes Rugby 2000 (48494664). 12.55 West:
Carbon Time (93501432), 1.40 Film: North to Alexander Cartoon (fine 1935/14-24). 1-40 Herr Forth Order (1945). 4-40
West: ITV Sport Cassics (395:2513), Wales: Let's Co (895:2513), 12:55am Carcyl Knowledge (72:15575). 1.55am Film: The Uniforgiver (3-4379681). 4.00am Hetter Steller (916:2594), 4.50am Sound Bites (1511:2933). 5.00-5.30am World of Saling (15:372).

MERIDIAN
As London except, 12,30pm Monos, Games and Videos (47277), 1.10 International Touring Cars (30983249), 1.40 A406 (14417971), 2,10 World of Salling (20777364), 2,40 Cartoon (1321838), 2,50 Airwolf (8847797), 3,45 secQuest 2032 (487242), 12,55am Camal Knowledge (7215575), 1,55am Film: The Unforgiven (5-1379681), 4,00am Helter Skelter (9162594), 4,50am Sound Bites (15112933), 5,00-5-30am Freescreen (15372).

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March peace

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Moves, Games and Vickos
(47277). 1,10 Champions of the Future (30983249).
1,40 Studynasters (3523258). 2,30 Film: Antibush at
Tornahawk Ga (5674722). 12.55am Camal Knowledge (7215575). 1.55am Film: The Unlarguen (543796811 4.00am Heller Steller (9162594). 4.50am Sound Bies

As C4 except: 10.00am Rawhide (36258), 12.00 The Avengers (51426), 2,45pm Racing from Newmarket (26548722), 6,30 Travelog Treks (242), 7,00 News (714345), 7.15 Noson Lawen (6290426), 8.20 Hel Straeon (213451), 8.50 Gas y Dorlan (739451), 9.25 Straton (213-93). 4.50 uses it burning 3-95). 5-56 Firm Visions of Tenur (3955/1971), 11.10 Flush (6023-15). 11.25 Dight Vou Used to be Satan? (808432), 11.55 Rock Wives (2986/16), 12.55 am Film: All About Eve (88879597). 3.00 am Battersea Bardot (94952), 4.00-4.05

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8MH: FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 to Whiley 4.00 Steve Lamacq 7.00 Lovegrove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 The Reggae Dance-hall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Play Boys 4.00 Charlie Jordan 5.00-7.00am Charire Jordan

(88-90.2MHz FM) 6.00am Mo Outta 2.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wnght's Saturday Show 1.00 Carrott's Sarriday Show 1.00 Carron's Comedy Choice 1.30 The News Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Keeping the Fath 6.00 Klki Dee In Concert 7.00 Vaudeville Red-Hot and alue 7.30 Jesus Christ Superstar 9.20 David Jacobs 10.00 Tha Arts Programme 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Outta

Radio 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.95am Weather. 7.00 Record Review. 12.00 Private Passions, Michael Burkett talks to best-sailing

novelist Paul Balley. 1.00 Simon Rattle: Home and

Rattle and the London

Away. Michael Birkett explores the long-standing relationship which exists between Simon

3.00 The Department Score. 3.30 Young Artists Forum. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. 6.30 Norma. Bellini's opera of love and jealousy. Carol Vaness (soprano), Franco Farina

Rizzi. 9.15 Bullding for the Arts. 9.45 Brahms, Clarinet Quimet in 8 minor, Op 115. Emma Johnson (clarinet), Delme 10.25 Out of the Air.

10.30 dilly Jenkins. A concert given by the British guitarist and his group the Voice of God Collective, together with the Fun Horns of Berlin, at the Purcell Room, London.
1.00 Through the Night.
1.01 Anders Kjellberg Floating

(tenor), Paris National Opera Chorus and Orchestra/Carlo

2.00 Yevgeni Kissin (plano). 3.25 Early Music. 4.50 Haffner Trio.

6.00-7.00am Sequence.

Choice

Revelation (7pm Classic), the from the Soviet era recently unearthed in Moscow - the 1946 debut, never before

5.00am News.

6.50 Prayer for the Day. 7.00 Today. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breskewsy.

10.00 Loose Ends. 11.00 The Week in Westminste dent. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 News Quiz. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions?

Sviatoslav Richter (left) Is the subject of tonight's Russian series showcasing the extraordinary collection of recordings programme includes Richter's

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM; 198kHz

11.30 From Our Own Correspon-

2.00 Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Lost Stradivarius. Gothic horror by John Meade Palkner, with Paul Rhys.
4.00 That's History.
4.00 That's History. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4. 5.40 The Wardrobe.

6.50 Ad Lib. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Alice Walker discusses what inspired her acclaimed bestseller The Color Purple, and talks about her autoblograpi The Same River Twice.
7.50 On These Days. A look back on events which took place 50

years ago this week. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Victoria Station, By Steve Chambers, Wednesday, 25 nuary 1895. A day of lambent hopes and clouded prospects in Bridgford, With Sean Baker and Philip

Jackson. (4/5). 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 10.00 News. 10.15 Surfers' Paradise. Jose An-

follows the macabre investiga curious about her murdered sister's past. 11.15 Auntle's Secret Box. 11.30 Stanza on Stage.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Lava Tree. By Janice Fox.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00-6.00em As World Service. Radio 5 (693, 909kHz MW) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes 9.05 Weekend with Kar-shaw and Whittaker 11.05 Top

Gear 11.35 Sick as a Parrot 12.05 Baker and Kally Upfront

1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Oallyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.05am Morning Reports

Classic FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Gerdening Forum.
From Cuffley Horticultural Society
in Hertfordshire. 1.00 Alan Mann
4.00 Nick Balley. Including a
sports update. 7.00 Russian Revelation. See Choice, left. 8.00 Evening Concert. Berlioz Romeo

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ and Jono's Greatest Hits 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00 Lynn Parsons

10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-

World Service (19akHz LW) (1936F2 LW) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Mu-sic Review 4.00 World News st. review 4.00 Wons news 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Fourth Estate 4.45 Write On 4.55 Pop Short 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Short Story

et Juliette; Hungarian March. 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 The Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstons

(14987), 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (23635), 9.00 Cops (75398), 9.30 Cop Files (78161), 10.00 Stand and Deliver (65155), 10.30 Revelations (47703), 11.00 The Movie Show (74105), 11.30 Foreuer Knight (83451), 12.30 Dream On (36204), 1.00 Comedy Rules (32662), 1.30 The Edge (49440), 2.00-7.00em Hit Mix Long Play (71643). 7.00pm Earth 2 (4014451). 8.00 JAG

(4927971), 9.00 Kindred: The Em-braced (4010635), 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (5005906), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (5918426), 11.00 The Hit Mix (1050600), 12,00 Film: The Vistors (1972) (2777914), 2,00-6,00 am Hit Mix Long Play (6765310). SKY MOVIES SKY MOVIES
6.00am Mountain Family Robinson
(1979) (55600), 8.00 Babe Ruth
(1991) (55819), 10.00 The Cat and
the Canary (1979) (96513), 12.00
The Sandiot (1993) (65242), 2.00
For Love Alone (1994) (37838), 4.00
Pocahonizs: The Legend (1995)
(2838), 6.00 Rough Diamonds

Satellite

7.00am Undun (77529). 9.00 The

7.00em Undun (77529). 9.00 The Best of Sally Jessy Raphae (199884). 10.00 Designing Women (63838). 10.30 Murphy Brown (46074). 11.00 Parker Lewis Carlt Lose (88074). 11.30 Real TV (89703). 12.00 Wrestling. Blast Olf (77432). 1.00 The HIt Mix (86180). 2.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (64567). 3.00 Hawleye (90819). 4.00 WWF (24646). 5.00 Pocific Blue (7906). 6.00 America's Durnibest Criminals (8797). 6.30 Springhill (5277). 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (14987). 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (23635). 9.00 Cops (75398). 9.30

(1994) (17074), 8.00 Little Big League (1994) (29819), 10.00 Fatal Instinct (1993) (95068), 11.30 Secret Games 3 (1995) (309567), 1,05 Back in Action (1994) (4542020), 2.25 Mindwarp (1991) (772310). 4.00 Blind Justice (1994) (20391).

MOVIE CHANNEL. 6.00am The Kid from Left Field 6.00am The Kid from Left Field (1953) (53242). 8.00 Tripoli (1950) (46161). 10.00 Rookle of the Year (1993) (94155). 12,00 The Big Game (1995) (63884). 2.00 Major League II (1994) (28180). 4.00 The Scout (1994) (1960). 6.00 Angels (1994) (10161). 10.00 Outbreak (1994) (60696548). 12.10 Scanner Cop (1993) (885681). 1.45 Outbreak (1995) (98437223). 3.55 Solar Warriors (1986) (30586198).

SKY MOVIES GOLD sky Movies GOLD 4,00pm High Society (1956) (7529635). 6.00 The Lost World (1960) (1426971). 8.00 Return from the River Kwal (1988) (1501616). 10.00 King of the Hill (1990) (2407093). 11.40 White Mischief (1987) (3119258). 1.30 Reap the Wild Wind (1942) (37719204). 3.35-5.45am Daddy Longless (1955) (22668914).

Longegs (1955) (22668914).
UK GOLD
7.00am Give Us a Clue (7765426)
7.30 Going for Gold (94/3838), 7.55
The Sullivars (18017180), 10.00
Neighbours (5852123), 12.00 EastEnders (95154109), 2.55 Minder
(69400987), 4.00 Robin's Nest
(5497155), 4.30 Sorryl (4403567),
5.05 Cartoon Time (41708258), 5.15
The A-Team (2252703), 6.15 Bullseye
(2576857), 6.45 Sorne Mothers Do

'Ave 'Em (5339703). 7.25 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? (5162513). 8.05 Shoestring (97473567). 9.10 Kojak (85344513) 11.10 Miami Vice (7985398), 12.10 Callan (5511933), 1.10 The Album Show (1655846), 2.05-7.00am Shop ping at Night (27416372).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00am World Sport Special (17161). 7.30 American Sports (92426). 8.30 Racing News (34364). 9.00 The Rug-Racing News (34364), 9,00 The Rug-by Cub (3560), 10,00 Golf (79971), 12,00 Sports Saturday (3852971), 5,30 NHL (72432), 6,30 Surfing (61838), 7,30 Finish Line (7277), 8,00 Boding – Live (147426), 11,00 Kick Boding (33109), 12,00 World of Speed and Beauty (96198), 12,30-4,00am Basabati – Live (1008846),

LIVE TV
6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 The Why Piles 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Fate and Fortune 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Gair's Campus Capes 12.30 The Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fate and Fortune 2.00 Fashwor 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Chequiered Flag 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Ends Monster Sport Show 5.30 Eve's Seventies Pop Show 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Eric's Monster Sport Show 5.100 Spanish Archer 7.30 Reve-Show 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Bushido 9.03 The Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Ends Monster Sport Show 10.30 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revetations 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-6.00am Night-Time Programmes

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Who will house all these prisoners?

aving filled up its hastily purchased Portakabins with prisoners, the Home Office is to commandeer a former American missile base in Suffolk and turn it into a makeshift jail. Some peace dividend: the fruit of the ending of the Cold War is space for the nation's burgeoning population of convicts.

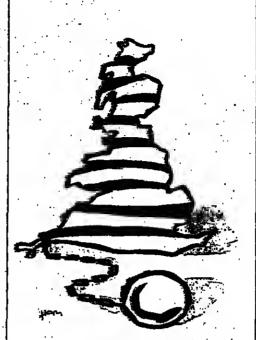
But surely the Prison Service is being somewhat unimaginative. The Ministry of Defence is awash with surplus land and gear. The Navy is in decline. We know that because admirals were only this week passed over for the joh of Chief of Defence Staff. That must mean that there are destroyers, maybe even a carrier, spare. So why not do what the government did when it had all those French prisoners during the Napoleonic Wars and recommission the hulks - floating prisons? It would add verisimilitude to the British Tourist Board's promotion of Olde London.

Alternatively, there are all those empty dungeons in the royal palaces and English Heritage's estate. Putting real, live prisoners in them would make the Bloody Tower and Dover Castle even more attractive to tourists - and give those overweight yeomen warders a real job of work at last. Failing that, we could turn one of the innumerable Scottish islands into an offshore prison - Alcatraz would have nothing on St Kilda as the ultimate escapeproof jail. Come on, Mr Howard, show some

imagination! Why stop at missile bases? What isn't a joke is that the Home Office has woefully miscalculated its numbers. For months, if not years, all sorts of makeshift arrangements are going to have to be made to accommodate the fast-expanding prison population. As we reported yesterday, magistrates' courts cells may be brought into use

over Christmas. All such expedients are deplorable. Convicts or those on remand held in temporary cells are unlikely to have access to even a basic prison regime. This flouts the principle that all prisoners should be subject to uniform conditions and that to their loss of liberty should not be added unpredictable variations in the conditions under which they are held. It is also likely to be expensive, requiring supernumerary private-sector staff to be brought in. As for the American air base scheme, it seems that the Ministry of Defence may even be asked to "donate" its police for patrols. They will not have been trained in guarding prisoners and may well end up reducing rather than improving security.

Let's not argue, at this point, with the Home Secretary's basic policy, which is to make a prison sentence a more likely outcome of criminal proceedings. Michael Howard's reliance on statutory jail terms for a wider class of offences will have a direct and measurable effect on prison numbers. (Legislation to be announced in the Queen's Speech next



week will push up the prison population even further.) We disagree that these measures are going to be effective in terms of reducing the total volume of crime: they do purchase "time out" for criminals, off the streets, as the Home Secretary has said, but the cost is huge.

But it is entirely legitimate for Michael

Howard to pursue such a policy - provided he and his government colleagues are pre-pared to will the means. The prison population is, of course, not "controllable" by the Home Office in daily detail; it is determined by the decisions of the courts. But the Home Secretary sets the tone for sentencing decisions as well as the tariffs. He is certainly responsible for the projected growth. But has be secured the wherewithal? Richard Tilt, the director-general of the Prison Service, says no. Even if we discount Mr Tilt's complaints for the time of year they are issued - it is the season for annual bargaining between spenders and the Treasury – he bears witness to fiscal backsliding. High rhetoric from the Home Secretary, and big promises at the Tory Party conference, are being followed by a refusal to honour the commitment.

All this is rapidly shaping up as a shambles. It looks as if these temporary arrangements involving camps and court cells will persist. If so, it will amount to a de facto alteration in the penal regime for large numbers - un-legislated and unwilled. There will be less security. The Home Office deserves a legal challenge - though it could be Home Secretary Jack Straw who has to field it.

So the delivery of a policy which the Government has been trumpeting is failing. Almost as important as that fact is the symbolism of this cock-up. It damages the very authority of the state. Confidence that government has the power and competence to deliver as promised is a precious thing. It deserves the care and concern not just of those who believe government should do more but also of liberals, temperamentally allergic to undue state interference, and those who would like the state to be smaller. Ineffective government is no substitute for limited government - it is no more than a recipe for resentment and irritation which can sometimes spill over into a contempt for authority of all kinds.

Thatcherism's "hig idea" was rolling back the state, freeing (as she saw it) enterprise; it remains the guiding principle of the Major government. But diminution of the effectiveness of government was no part of the lady's project, or her successor's. Lack of accommodation for an expanded population of prisoners bids fair to become a classic example of government failure.

It's an own goal for the Tories, but one that has consequences for many more of us than

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Complete handgun ban would prevent US-level child deaths

Sir: The willingness of the British Government to introduce legislation that goes further than Lord Cullen's recommendations is hrave and welcome ("Britain declares war on the gun culture", 17 October).

However, there will remain significant number of legally available. In Britain we are fortunate in not having a society where guns are accepted as part of everyday life. Experience in the United States of America reflects the evolution of a "gun culture" which has not been held back by

legal constraint. Thus in 1990 there were 1.5 per 100,000 children between 10 and 14 years of age deliberately killed by guns in that country. This would be equivalent to around 68 deaths per year in the United Kingdom in that

age group. Six per 1,000 children visiting two emergency departments in Louisiana in 1993 were suffering from firearm injuries. This would be equivalent to 210 cases per year in the North Staffordshire Hospital, which 35,000 children attend annually. Between 35 and 38 per cent of families with children in the USA reported that 15 per cent had carried a gun within 30 days of the

There are few opportunities to iz havene in social/public health firearms. Once guns are pervasive in any society, as shown by the chilling statistics from the USA, there is almost no opportunity for "turning back the clock". The USA can be considered a laboratory for what can happen to children, along with all other citizens, if guns are widely

We urge our politicians to vote according to the future welfare of all our children and legislate now for a complete han on handguns, recognising that most illegally held guns were at one time held legally.

Such an approach may also send a signal to other countries, such as the USA, assisting their politicians to take a similar stance. Dr DAVID SOUTHALL DT PAUL EUNSON Dr CARL BOSE Child Advocacy International Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: Your leading article ("Ban all handguns now. There's nothing to lose", 17 October) correctly states that the only loss resulting from a hlanket ban on all privately owned handguns would be to a handful of enthusiasts. Yet even they need not

It is not the handgun which does the damage, but the bullets which it

Any child with a gun-like add-on for their video game knows that one can shoot down an entire alien invasion fleet without the need for bullets - all one needs is an infrared source and a detector. No less steady a hand is required to bit a target with an electronic device than with a physical projectile and a .22

As for the Olympics, fencing it already shown that what was once a weapon can, with the help of electronic technology, be used in sport without any reduction in the skill required. JOHN CHESTER

West Yorkshire

Sir: Rarely have I read such sanctimonious twaddle as in your leader calling for the banning of all handguns (17 October).

The hysteria over pit-bull-type dogs resulted in bad law, unnecessary cruelty and an infringement of civil liberties. Hysteria over Dunblane is likely to result in infringement of civil liberties and no guarantee that a similar tragedy will not occur. If the legislation results in gun ownership going underground the dangers may even be increased.

There is no protection against the actions of a seriously deranged

A far more interesting question is why Hamilton was so excluded from society that his problems were not

addressed.
We consider the freedom to drive a car worth the price of hundreds of . It is not clear that a single child's

life will be saved by a state monopoly on handguns, yet important freedoms will be infringed. SIMON J ELLIS Stone, Staffordshire.



A lifeboat crew; why do they risk their lives?

Photograph: Colorific

Altruism is more than selfish genes

Sir: Andrew Brown goes over the top ("Altruistic equations that killed a good man", 14 October). Bill Hamilton's maths may be sound, hut support a dubious thesis: the selfish gene-ery spin on Darwinian

There are other ways of explaining altruism in animal behaviour. It may well be that altruism occurs in all social species because being socialthe social good - requires it: while the individual good necessarily results, to a significant extent, from the common

Hence everyone benefits from altruism, not just someone's genes. Try to imagine a social species in which self-interest dominated everyone's behaviour, or had to be knocked out of each individual in its

The common good in practice is the good of an individual's community, not some vague abstraction. It is the community which benefits from altruistic

behaviour, and that need not be made up of related individuals: a platoon of soldiers or a lifeboat crew, for

instance. To argue, as Hamilton does, that their concern for one another derives from selfish gene-ery via kinship "altruism"; or that the self-sacrificing squaddie is indirectly serving the selfish interests of his genes - is at best unconvincing.

It is interesting just how welcoming are the social and academic environments to evolutionary theories - educated guesses, speculations, evangelical crusades like Richard Dawkins's - which find greed, competition and selfishness at the roof of human behaviour, or in the dirt around the root.

There are different ideas -Kropotkin's mutual aid; Professor V C Wynne-Edwards's group selection - and informed criticisms of selfish gene-ery which merit equal attention. DICK FROST

New oil fields a backward step

Sir: Nicholas Schoon ("Rio summit's green pledges to be broken", October II), reports from an oil industry conference that Britain and Germany are "world leaders in pressing countries to take the global warming threat seriously." Every other major industrial country is expected to fail its Rio commitment to cap carbon dioxide emissions, while Britain and Germany's marginal reductions are a side-effect of industrial restructuring.

This is all good news for oil companies. British Environment Secretary John Gummer attacked the fossil fuel (oil) lobby at the August climate talks. But the British government is actually expanding oil production: it is licensing BP to open vast new oil fields west of Shetland, on the Atlantic frontier.

I DIS IS WIODE: MOTALLY, TALIONALLY politically. Five years on from Rio, governments accept the reality of global warming. By now they should have signalled that fossil fuels will

end, by beginning the end of oil. Wake np John Major, wake up Tony Blair. Stop the drilling, put out the fires, turn off the taps, send back the ships and leave the ocean to the whales. Crank up your carbon taxes, lag your lofts, change your light bulbs, harness the wind and plug in

Campaign Programme Director, Greenpeace UK London NI

Hair for hunting

Sir: Christopher Hill (Letters, 16 October) quite rightly nffers Elaine Morgan's theory as an alternative to the Savannah orthodoxy on human evolution, but misrepresents much of

Hairlessness lets us lose heat very rapidly, so we can run for very long periods, far longer than any other hunting mammal. Further, the pinnipeds (seals etc) are all covered in hair, and are conspicuously aquatic. Neoteny is common in higher mammals, particularly predators and primates.

In fact, most of the reasons he cites are actually good evidence for our hunting (carnivorous) past. There are much better pieces of evidence for our semi-aquatic ancestry.
For example, for proper neural

found in large quantities only in fish: no other primate has this If new-born babies are submerged in water, they automatically hold

development we need fatty acids

their breath, and reflexively tilt their heads up as they are brought to the Finally, though Elaine Morgan's

views are not yet eotirely orthodox, a substantial minority of biologists now accept them. STEPHEN R GOULD London SWS

Masons as jurors?

Sir: With reference to "Masons make better jurors, say judges' (15 October) ... these are the chaps who assemble in darkened rooms, refuse to admit women, wear regalia which the average drag queen would consider rather OTT, bare various portions of their anatomy whilst giving each other funny handshakes and muttering secret passwords and take an oath which owes more to Just William and the Gang of the Black Hand than the Royal Courts of Justice ... ? Or did the Court of Appeal in Guernsey misdirect itself? BICATRNS London N22

LETTER from THE EDITOR

t has been a sad and solitary editor's week, waiting for the phone call, pacing the hall in the darkness of early morning, desperately hoping for the barely audible thock! of cream-coloured envelope on leaf-encrusted doormat. But no. The invitation to pack bowtic, sagging peoguin-suit (more of a walnus-suit, in my case) and head to Brighton to party with the Referendum Party, has not come. All London is said to be going. All the in, intelligent,

forceful and attractive people ... bar one, it seems. This despite the fact that The Daily Telegraph's peroxide-wigged met correspondent bons Johnson has publicly announced that I am invited. The

shame! The public humiliation! Can this be because we are on the other side? Perhaps: the position of this paper is to be in favour of referendums on hig constitutional issues, including British membership of the single currency - hut thor-oughly and implacably against the Referendum Party. We could, of course, have been bought for a glass of warm champagne But it is 100 late.

As it happens, I have met Sir James Goldsmith for dinner once, and was mightily impressed, though unconverted by his passionate hostility to free trade. He possesses extraordinary ice-hlue eyes, whose gleam made artificial lighting unnecessary, and more interesting facts about 19th-century trade patterns than a well-stocked university library. These things are not necessarily a recommendation but I mention them to emphasise that he is, in his way, a formidable debater and would give most professinnal politicians a serious fight nn television.

The Referendum Party's choice of louche Brighton for its rally has caused much banter about the whilf of Regency. big-money socialising that surrounds it. There really are parallels between then and now. The Prince Regent's salon was on the fringe of real power. a wealthy and perpetual annoyance closely connected by birth and friendship to the govern-ment of the day. Sn is Sir Jimmy's salon. He is connected to the Thatcher salon - Carla Powell, wife of Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's former

adviser, is a Goldsmith cheerleader. Lord McAlpine, the Thatcherite former Tory treasurer, is another. Goldsmith has plenty of mates among right-wing Tory MPs.

Thatcher and John Major were formally reunited at the Tory conference in Bournemouth, though these conference reconciliations are elaborately artificial affairs. (I heard recently that during the Thatcher years, there would be detailed and tense annual negotiations between her office and Ted Heath's lot about where the two outsize egos would "accidentally" meet; who

The Referendum Party's choice of louche Brighton has caused much banter about the whiff of Regency big-money socialising that surrounds it

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and so on.) And today, despite the Thatcher-Major reconciliation, the Referendum Party seems strikingly like the prov-isional wing of the Margaret Thatcher Tendency. Nn nne makes much of this. But it is pretty rum. It is almost as if Neil Kinnock's former advisers and allies were currently working with Arthur Scargill against Tony Blair. Mr Major, playing the staid and disapproving William Pitt to Goldsmith's Prinny and McAlpine's Beau Brummell (well, no parallel can be exact) affects not to care. But he must be livid at today's jully antics. Almost as hurt as I am, perhaps.

Some readers have complained about our use of the Clare Short story on the front page. It is not, admittedly, our normal page one fare. But it seemed a piece of genuine good news, a happy ending for decent people. And it's pretty rare that you get that no any front page, never mind our

Andrew Marr

Act now on Irish peace talks, before election muddies the water

: Your editorial "Another small ste liong the road to peace" (16 October) suggested that the electural considerations of the Northern Ireland parties made further progress in the peace talks unlikely between now and a general

No one would dispute that the level of public support for the parties is important to all concerned, but so is the level of public support for peace. It would be in the clear interest of all to make as much progress as possible before general election campaigning forces public confrontations oo the basis of moderates versus hard-

Bi-partisanship in Westminster has helped in ensure that Labour is not vying with the Torics for positions on Northern Ireland. At worst it is portraved as a competition on the basis of the ibur editorial repeated this point. Having spent an hour on Wednesday talking with Tony Blair about the current state of progress in the talks I have no doubt of his interest and Looking forward to a change of

government, you are right to suggest that "Labour's base position is consent", but you overlook that we have always said that change is necessary. We know there is not consent for a united Ireland among unionists, but it is equally clear that the existing status does not have the consent of nationalists.

That is why we need new arrangements and structures that both communities can support. The status quo is not an option. Our policy, as set out in New Labour, New Life for Britain, shows

our commitment to reconciliation between the two communities, and unity of the peoples of Ireland. John Hume has emphasised for us all the value of thinking and talking in terms of people not territory. As he says, it's people who have rights. It's

people who are divided.
We believe that reconciliation needs to be based on respect for each community's sense of allegiance whether that is to Ireland or to Britain -which means, primarily, working to build agreement around institutions

which all people can share and which both unionists and nationalists can

Labour argues that a new settlement needs to: embrace balanced constitutional change in Britain and Ireland; increase North-Sonth co-operation as a matter of common sense to make the border less relevant; fully respect the identities and aspirations of both traditions; and provide for a strong, devolved assembly based upon proportional representation.

To help underpin the process of change, we have to build confidence too. Given the opportunity, there are some important things Labour will do to help this, such as: incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into our law; consulting with the parties on a home grown bill of rights; taking steps to make the police more accountable and representative; toughening up the fair employment legislation; and taking decisive action to reduce tension over the parades.

For now, we are calling on all parties to take an extra step forward. That's why I visited loyalist prisoners in the Maze prison. I velcome the step taken by David Trimble in visiting them. The maintenance of the loyalist ceasefire is an essential element in making progress.
And the restoration of the IRA

ceasefire is crucial too. You suggest that progress is being made in the absence of Sinn Fein and that is true But it cannot be unconditionally excluded from the process. That would only strengthen the hand of the militarists. The IRA has to call a ceasefire

and Sinn Fein has to show its commitment to peace and democracy in word and deed. If they do, both governments should continue to say that there is a place for them at the

MARJORIE MOWLAM MP Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary House of Commons London SW1

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: \$171-293 2856; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Politicians are the most despicable human subspecies I have come across in a long and varied life - Sir James Goldsmith, Founder of the Referendum Party.

When I first entered Parliament in 1959, I thought I was joining the best club in London. Today one might as well sign the book at Raymond's Revue Bar - Tory MP Sir Julian Critchley. Conkers players tend to peak older - John Ball, the 74-year-old pensioner crowned men's champion at this year's World Conker

I must confess that most of the time I do not understand my own regulations - Emma Bonino, the European Union Fisheries Com-

Nut only is it true, but I understand that in the Tory Party today it is compulsory - Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, asked in the Commons if it was true that bromide was still given to servicemen to control their sexual urges.

Well done, Clare. We're all bloody humanl - Van driver to Clare Short, who was posing with the son she gave up for adoption. We have become the overtime capital of Europe, with many people being forced to work long hours through no choice of their We are witnessing a return to the days of the Victorian workhouse - Stephen Byers, Labour employment spokesman.

Looking for justice in the East End

Mary Walz was promised half a million pounds by Barings. 'Mrs Taylor' fiddled the computer to pay her own council tax. Will the law treat them with the same consideration? By Louise Jury

n neighbouring rooms of the Stratford industrial tribunal in east London, two women are fighting for their

employment rights.
In Room Three there is Mary Waiz, a feisty, 36-year-old American more accustomed to the boardroom than to concrete and chipboard tribunal offices in one of the scruffier parts of the capital. She is fighting Barings Bank for a £500,000 bonus she claims she was owed when the bank crashed with £830m losses run up by the rogue trader Nick Leeson in

Singapore. In Room Two is a small, scared woman a few years older - we'll call ber Janet Turner. She committed what was a tiny fraud compared with the dealings that broke Britain's oldest merchant bank. Yet her world has tumbled around her just as surely as the collapse at Barings.

Mrs Turner is a former housing benefit officer earning less than a sixth of Ms Walz's basic £93,000, who fiddled the council computer to defer paying her own poll tax hill when she was in dire financial circumstances and under significant work stress. She is now desperate to win a case of unfair dismissal against the London Borough of Islington.

The two women are equal before the tribunal chairmen charged with deciding their cases. But there the similarity

bright young barrister (and Barings a QC), Mrs Turner has a solicitor acting alone (against a barrister for the council). Ms Walz determinedly briefs her legal team with verbal and written notes on ber banking opposition; Mrs Turner sits awed and largely silent, as her chance of proving that she was not given a chance slips slowly away. In everything, they live

balf a million pounds apart. The doorman knows which is the sexy story, "You a journalist?" he asks as I arrive clutching newspapers and a heavy bag of notebooks. He does not even ask why I am there. "You want Room Three," he says. That is Mary Walz. No one is interested in Mrs Turner and her sad tale. There is not a single other journalist there.

Mary Walz is a City high

flyer, a former director of Bar-ings who was global head of equity financial products. One of the tabloids claimed that she sobbed when she gave evidence this week. She bristles at the sparkier stuff. Ms Walz must know that

half the country probably sym-pathises with Nicholas Underpathises with Nicholas Under-hill, Barings' QC. "It is sur-prising, to say the least," he said, "that Barings' global head of equity financial products should claim a bonus for the year in which such catastrophic losses were made, which led to insolvency." But despite the

amazement of some of her old

colleagues - she is. Next door, Janet Turner is sobbing. She dahs at ber eyes with a tissue and looks drawn and drained as she tells her story. Crying, she apologises for her fraud. She was severely depressed, as psychiatrists testify, and under pressure - at times the only member of staff in what should have been an eight-person team, doing twice the borough's average case workload. Her bome life was a catalogue of disasters and she had financial problems not entirely of her own making. After her fiddling came to light, conversations with her seniors wrongly reassured her that she might not be sacked. She was willing to work anywhere in the borough, if an alternative post away from the computers could be found.

Mrs Turner knows that what she did was wrong, and makes no excuses. All she is claiming is that the London Borough of Islington did not take all the very thought, for she is made of circumstances into account before dismissing her after eight-and-a-half years' service and no prior misconduct. It is not exactly a common story, but it is more typically the stuff of tribunals than the case being heard next door.

Mary Walz of course, is a "star" or at least she was told she was by Andrew Tuckey, Barings' deputy chairman, when 13 hours before learning ends. Where Ms Walz has a collapse and to the apparent of the Leeson disaster, he







Mary Walz (top) and the Barlogs office (left), Islington's housing benefit office (right)

handed her a slip of paper con-taining the words "Mary Walz - £500,000". It was what she had been expecting her bonus

She had joined the hank in 1992 following another high flyer, Ron Baker, when he was recruited to head Barings' financial products group. The group was apparently doing well under the two of them, but that, of course, was based on the fictitious profits from Leeson's Singapore operations.

The bank considers Ms Walz to have been one of those responsible for Leeson, now serving six-and-a-half years in a Singapore prison for his dishonest financial dealings. In his book, Rogue Trader, Leeson himself names ber as one of the four people to whom be reported. The Board of Bank-

ing Supervision's report into she put it, "discretionary means the Barings collapse criticises for 365 days a year I can work her as being one of those who failed to monitor Leeson carefully enough. It said: "Neither Mr Baker ... nor Mary Walz, as head of equity products and having responsibility for risk for equity products, had any real understanding of the nature or true profit potential of Barings

trading."
But Ms Walz denies that sbe was directly responsible for Leeson's activities. In the words of Antony Sandel, her barrister: "She wasn't running the ship entirely single-banded - or, indeed, at all."

Futures (Singapore)'s apparent

She says that she was working extremely hard and gave "tremendous commitment" to her job. Like all staff, she knew the bonus was discretionary. As not get a penny.

my socks off and I may not get a bonus. Anything may happen until that time." But she believed that the figure was agreed when she met Andrew Tuckey at 11am on 23 February

Mr Sendal told the tribunal that the notification of the £500,000 bonus was a contract which had been broken and Barings, now owned by the Dutch bank ING, had illegally failed to pay it under the Wages Act. Mr Underhill disagreed. There was no "right" to the money at all. "It may be surrising that so important a benefit is non-contractual, but there are other well-known instances of that," he said. "Everyone recognises you may

As the complicated argument proceeded over three days this week, Ms Walz sat behind her legal team, listening

intently, riffling through her giant file of papers and documents and sipping Diet Coke.

Though perhaps a little nervous—commenting sarcastically about the attention the case has received, touchily mocking the claims made against her - she had an engaging line in humour as she hraced herself for the

She laughed as the final day began with a bandful of press again waiting to take their seats.
"Hard core," she said. "You're going to die today. It's going to be really boring."

In a fitted grey dress, suede shoes and pearl earrings, she was well turned out - as might be expected of a woman wbo

saw her annual salary rise from £80,000 in 1992 (with £160,000) honus) to £93,000 (and £300,000 bonus) a year later. As she ran slim fingers through her hair, she looked not unlike the actress Jamie Lee Curtis, Her home is at Butlers Wharf, central London, the neighbourhood near Tower Bridge made fashionable by the style

guru Terence Conran.

During the deliberations, Nick Leeson's name came up surprisingly infrequently, as did the question of Ms Walz's competence, though Mr Underhill did raise the issue of culpabil-ity as he headed towards his Next door, matters appeared

more concrete, the issues (right and wrong more obvious without the shadow of giant sums of money to confuse them. At the time of Mrs Turner's offences there was a lot of bousing benefit fraud, said Michael Davies, a council officer. Whatever Mrs Turner's circumstances, a warning instead of dismissal would have given the wrong message. The "purple book" governing the conduct of white-collar local authority workers was clear. "The public is entitled to

demand ... local government officer conduct of the highest standard," Mr Davies said.

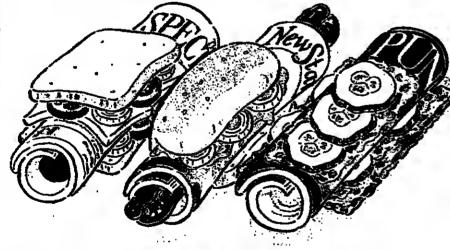
The language of council sub-committees and union (even of strikes) could not have constructed more charple with the trasted more sharply with the arguments next door over contracts and profit sharing. At the end of two days, Mr Leonard, the panel chairman, said it was "impossible not to be moved by the unhappy history that was revealed". With the benefit of a number of product not read out to the tribunit fic concluded: "Clearly Mrs Turner was a lady who has had to suffer considerable difficulties in her lifetime."

However, he went on, she had adjusted the computer three times fraudulently in her favour. The council had tried its best to help her, but it was, first and foremost, a public body with a duty to its taxpayers. The case was dismissed.

Afterwards, outside the tribunal offices, Mrs Turner cried. She stood forlornly, as if barely comprehending the decision. completely crushed by the case which had passed almost unnoticed even by the small world of local government in which she worked.

Ms Walz has a month to wait for her tribunal ruling. She would say nothing before it has made its findings. Her alleged role in the disastrous collapse of Barings has been plastered across newspapers in vivid detail and as she awa disciplinary hearing by the reg-ulatory body, the Securities and Futures Authority, the ordeal is not over yet. Yet whatever the tribunal decision, it is hard to imagine the American high flyer looking quite as desolute as the woman who pleaded her case next door. They remain worlds apart.

OK, IF YOU LIKE SNACKING.



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jo brand's week

I am in Germany for a few days visiting relatives and doing three nights at a new comedy club which has been set up by the London Comedy Store in Oberhausen. The evening will consist of two German comics and two English ones. We are all a bit trepidatious, as we are not quite sure what to expect. However, if it's anything like a gig I did in Holland recently, the German command of the English language will be more impressive than the English command of the English language.

In the race to make life safer for women, it seems the Germans are ahead. Arriving at a multi-storey car park in Paderborn, I discovered that one floor of it is designated women only. This seems like a very good idea to me. Women feel particularly vulnerable in places like these and whenever you watch a gangster film people are always taken to car parks like this to be dispatched to the great protection racket in the sky. One added advantage to a woman-only floor is that it smells nice. Women don't tend to relieve themselves in public with the same regularity that men do.

"The Bad", the equivalent of The Sun here in Germany, arrives, deceptively, in broadsheet form. However, when you get down to it, you discover the stories are very similar. However, there was one I liked about a woman drug smuggler who arrived from Columbia. On being asked her job, she replied, "Art historian", at which point customs officials questioned her on what she knew about Gothic art. Of course, she didn't know anything, so they searched her luggage and found loads of cocaine. Rule No I for the drug smuggler ... If

you are going to bullshit, at least do it about something you bave a minimal amount of knowledge on.

A recent case of a British soldier in Paderborn points to the danger of placing too much faith in medical evidence. The soldier was accused of killing his baby daughter, after he had brought her to casualty saying she had fallen from a chair. Doctors decided this was untrue and that he had, in fact, caused the damage himself. However, X-ray evidence showed that the injuries sustained by the child were consistent with the man's story. So, not only did this poor guy lose a child, he found himself accused of her killing. Our unswaying faith in the medical profession needs to be tempered with a touch of cynicism. I won't say a pinch of salt, because some doctor will write in and say that is bad for me.

In the former East Germany, it is very reassuring to see that the capitalist ethos is flourishing in some quarters at least. A new schnight phase just come on to the market which is called, and I translate, "Erich's Revenge", after the esteemed Mr Honecker. "Erich's Revenge" is selling like hot cakes,

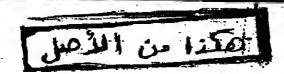
millions of bottles a day. Nice to know that life is so sweet in former East Germany that they have to be completely plastered all the time.

If you want something done, do it yourself. This was no doubt the thinking behind the actions of a German Green Party politician this week. The Green Party in Germany are currently pushing to legalise cannabis. and this geezer, not content with how fast things were moving, phoped the police and grassed himself up for growing the stuff (no pan intended I assure you). At least it's got him some publicity for the case, although it's possible he may be giggling too much to fight his corner.

Back to England, and another example of how responsible the tabloid press can be, was demonstrated this week by the Sport, which published the work phone numbers of four women who were protesting about the setting

up of a table dancing har in Manchester. So far they have succeeded in banning it; and Sport readers, who can obviously only do two things - look at the pictures in the Sport and ... well, I'll leave the other up to your imagination - have been raining threatening and obscene phone calls into the ears of the aforementioned women, "Aha," I hear you cry, "that's three things they can do, if they can use the phone." True, they've probably had a fair hit of practice on other obscene lines.

Lots of us have difficult neighbours, but it must be hard to think of a situation quite as bad as that faced by the Parkin family, who live next door to a convicted rapist. This is a rapist, too, who appears only to go as far as next door, having broken into that particular house twice; on one occasion he raped a woman while her children slept next door and un another, stabbed the husband of a different woman he was holding at knilepoint. Having been made aware of this, the current occupant of the house and her three daughters have gone, leaving Mr Parkin in residence. Added to this, a campaign has been launched in the local press to monitor the rapist's behaviour. This has upset his family. who say he is trying to go straight. Meanwhile, the police have fitted the house with an alarm system. I think this is one that even King Solomon would struggle with, although, in my view, cutting something in half might



a story by PATRICK SUSKIND and pieces by MARGARET DRABBLE and JOHN MADDOX

RIVATE LIVES

In Prospect this month are essays by

community, RW JOHNSON on white

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF on the trouble with

South Africans, MATT RIDLEY on siblings,

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Flirty Dancing

variations -

aaronovitch

I is rare, in these days of doctored spin, to find a politician who is prepared to put his head above the parapet, stick out his neck and tell it like it is. But one such is my old friend John Townend, Rotarian and the Conservative MP for Bridlington. I can assure readers that John's neck is extended, his head well-clear of the ramparts and his mouth

regional

My friend Mr

doctrine of just

deserts has not

been universally

Townend's

admired

is working overtime. We first met, as I remember, at a Northern Conservative Women's Bazzar in the early Eighties. Mrs Thatcher was at her apogee, and Mr Townend had just won first prize at the Tombola – a Magnum of Dom Perignon which he, as a successful wine merchant, had originally donated. As those around him celebrated his victory, he turned to me and spoke words that I will never forget, "I deserve this", he

said. Just that. Ever since that day. I have followed Mr Townend's career with interest. For it seemed to me that he had captured an important truth in those three simple words - that it was morally and practically

important for people to get that they deserved. And, by car of logic, it was equally important for people not to gct what they didn't deserve. So I observed Mr Townend's rise from back-bench obscurity to the most prominent positions to which a politician, not actually called to the ministerial purple, can aspire. I applauded as he stormed into the chairmanship of the Conservative back-beuch finance committee, and toasted his election to the executive of the 1922 committee. Like that day

was. I felt, getting what he deserved As one might expect with any man of principle, Mr Townend's ascent has been accompanied by controversy: his doctrine of just deserts not being universally admired. Just this week he has issued a set of proposals encapsulating his philosophy, and the reaction has ranged from the apathetic the down-right uninterested. But it seems to me that

readers of The Independent need to be familiar with them.

My friend's proposals

Ofc

ce

(1

so many years before he

are dependent on unemployment benefit. "We should use the benefit system to discourage people from having large families, when

they cannot afford them," he writes in this month'a Parliamentary Review. The beneficial effects of large cuts in the support of the undeserving poor will be threefold. First, a strong message will be sent about what kinds of behaviour society is prepared to tolerate. Second, those who are feckless or stupid will pay directly for their fecklessness and stupidity. And finally, money will be made available to

reward the deserving for their efforts, in the form of tax cuts. Having wielded the stick. Mr Townend can now produce his carrot. Savings thus gleaned, he argues, can be expended on allowing those (usually hard-working professionals) who employ cleaners, nannies and gardeners, to offset the cost of their wages against tax. This will, of course, increase

employment in the domestic The boldness of this vision is breathtaking. New Age Travellers, forced from their peripatetic nuisance-making can find environmentally friendly employment in the gardens of successful entrepreneurs and journalists. The few remaining illegitimate children born to teenage mothers, or the unwanted offspring of over-large families can be indentured into service

They need never know what it is not to have work. By so enormously increasing the gap between the penalties for failure and the rewards of success, Mr Townend · accomplishes an important piece of social engineering. He inculcates in all citizens a strong motive for succeeding. And thus - I am sure you will agree - brings the classless society that much closer. A

brandy? Just ring the bell.

in even quite modest homes.

include: cuts in benefit for new-age travellers (who do not deserve help because they are not really available for work). teenage single mothers (whose lack of husbands force them to sponge off the state), and for ndiculously big families who

All dance (with the obvious exception of Morris Dancing) can he sery. Social dance allows total strangers 10 embrace theatrical dance gives you a cast-iron excuse to stare at beautiful bodies in a state of undress. Indeed, 19th-century ballet audiences were often accused of being there simply to gaze at the gussets of pretty

young girls.

Ballet is only sexy up to a point. Darcey Bussell's ability to scratch her ear with her big toe may well encourage her less sophisticated male admirers to imagine activities that would make the Kama Sutra look tame. But, generally speaking, classical ballet is too divorced from reality, too carefully choreographed to come anywhere near the earthy sensnality of the tango.

It's not for want of trying, of course. The late Sir Kenneth MacMillan led a singlehanded crusade to include as many sexual acts and perversions as possible in the ballet repertoire: rape, oral rape, gang rape; you name it, he toyed with it. But however powerful the resulting dance, the result-ing emotions are always those

of a spectator. The exciting thing about tango is that it is an ordinary social dance. Even at its m sublime, it always looks as you, too, after a couple # lessons, could take a tan around the floor with an aging roue in double-breasted pinstripes. Indeed, tango classes are springing up all

over the country to feed just such a fantasy. Tango began in the poor suburbs of Buenos Aires in the second half of the 19th century. Rooted in the Milonga and the Habanera, it incorporated some of the more frenzied pelvic movements of African dance, thus disqualifying itself

from polite society.

Argentina may have been a melting pot of cultures after the buge influx of Spanish, Italian and British immigrants but that didn't mean it didn't have standards. Buenos Aires was the Paris of the Southern Hemisphere, its magnificent boulevards and town bouses designed by French architects. People who had got off the boat over a generation ago were very approval.

keen to keep out the riffraff. Even today Buenos Aires is a city that has both a Harrods (no relation) and a Hurlingham Club, a city where all the private schools play cricket. But fashion was always something you imported. At the turn of the century the new dance form slipped across to Paris where it immediately found favour. Its popularity grew over the next two decades, thanks partly to the international success of Rudolph Valentino, the archetypal Latin lover. By this time even the spooty anglophiles of La Recoleta were happy to import their home grown traditions now that they had received the Parisian seal of

For all its

beauty and

athleticism.

can never

match up to

tango - that

sophisticated,

sleazy dance

sex into an

art form

that has turned

writes Louise

Levene, ballet

Theatre

explain. The old Sadler's Wells

may be a pile of rubble await-

ing rebuilding, but meanwhile it has started a branch office at the

Peacock Theatre in Portugal Street committed to promoting accessible, popular dance. Sadler's Wells at the Peacock

launched itself this week with Tango Por Dos. Accessible? Definitely. Popular? You bet. Sexy? I should coco.

> Meanwhile, in North America, the vogue for outlandish dances made the tango all the rage, but its sensuality was soon neutered by the prissy intervention of Vernon and Irene Castle the proud parents of modern ballroom dancing. The Castles sanitised the tango, washing it clean of all the saucy legplay that make it so thrilling to watch (and which

تفكذا من المدَّصِل

led that notorious old killjoy Pope Pius X to ban it in 1914). The result was the International Tango, a dreary little walk without passion or danger

that brought the very name of tango into disrepute. For years in Britain tango was just the novelty act in the

sashayed across our screens clasped as one by deliriously

enthusiast could hang out. Argentino made its first European trip in 1983. This Buenos Aires-based company reminded

in which sequin-encrusted dental hygienists from Dorking

happy estate agents. In Paris, it was different, although the initial craze had passed, there were always tango salons where the true It was to Paris that Tango

the world what they were miss-ing. For the past few years tango companies have been regular visitors to London and the effect on audiences has been extraordinary. You don't walk away from a ballet per-Latin section of Come Dancing formance determined to buy a

tutu but tango makes you yearn to participate.
The Argentinian company

London this week in a show that exemplifies tango's potent charm. Although beautifully dressed and slickly produced, it still manages to make you believe that you are in some

seedy Latin bar. The veteran Carlos places his right hand lightly but firmly

Almost all of the hig dance crazes to hit Britain this century from rumba to macarena have been Latin American in origin. Latin dances have a seductive rhythm, and although you may about them.

need to take lessons to master the steps, there's nothing sissy Tango is a macho dance and the older the man, the better it gets. The men in tango companies are often handsome old lounge lizards rather than snake-hipped lotharios. They prove conclusively that you don't have to be skinny to be lithe. Men in the audience find

her around the floor by the

pressure of his fingers and the sheer weight al his guiding

body. All movements and shifts

of direction are initiated by the

male and his chosen female

responds with the speed and

ensitivity of a thoroughbred. The sexual parallels are

obvious, the whole dance is a

nostalgie throwback to an

imaginary past in which men of experience took their witting victims to heaven and back.

In fact, sex is probably the last thing on the dancer's mind.

He may have his cheek pressed to hers but he's not looking

into her eyes; he's concentrat-

ing on his feet. And who can

hlame him? Encased in dove

grey suede lace-ups he feels the way across the floor with the

grace and purpose of a cat. Twinkling toes slice danger-

ously back and forth and the

couple's four legs entwine They

conclude with her legs wrapped

around his hips while she mimes stroking his hair (a nee-

essary fiction if you don't want

It's exhibarating stuff but

tango's appeal doesn't lie solely

with the steps, Part of its glam-our springs from its home turf.

Some countries are sexy, some

aren't. Britain hasn't imported

a German dance for 150 years,

but Argentina abounds with

romance. Free from the pon-

choed picaresque of Peru or

Ecuador, Buenos Aires con-

jures an image of exode sophis-

tication tainted with sleaze.

a handful of brilliantine).

this sexy (particularly mature fuse their ability to negotiate a crowded dance floor by sheer

force of personality with the Tango Por Dos returned to ability to perform to a high standard elsewhere. The hig difference between sex and the tango is that you can (in theory) have sex with anyhody. Tango only works between practised individuals who understand each other's preferences and know exactly what they're doing. No wonder

on Alicia's spine and pilnts some people seem to prefer it.

GET YOUR TEETH

INTO IT

Mr Christopher visits the dark continent

merican Secretaries of State have a habit of coming a cropper over Africa. A typical example of the genre took place in 1969, when Richard Nixon sent his then Secretary of State, William Rodgers, to Ghana for a visit urranged with an eye on coverage by the US media. The tour provided a source of innocent merriment to Ghanaians, when during his speech at a gala. reception, America's number one diplomat referred to the Ghanaian Prime Minister, the Me Dr Kofi Busia, as "Dr

Busio . A few years later, the redoubtable Henry Kissinger, triumphal over his feats in the Far East, thought he would take a Tarzan-type swing across Africa and add a solution of the Rhodesian problem to the trophies marking his "world"

accomplishments. He, too, came new to the continent, and therefore knew little of the prickly temperament of its leaders. So having initially excluded Ghana from his list of countries, he thought he could hastily pencil it in, when one of those on his list dropped out. The US Ambassador in Ghana happened to be the famous former child movie star, Mrs Shirley Temple Black. Under orders from Washing-ian, she used her considerable darms to get the Ghanaian Foreign Ministry to invite Kissinger

But the country's military ruler of the time, General Ignatius Acheampong, was later



Secretaries of State rarely visit Africa and Warren Christopher's trip typified the attitudes they bring

By

Cameron Duodu.

with them

apprised of the fact that Ghana, "The Mother Of African Independence", had only got on to Kissinger's itinerary as a "sec-ond best". Acheampong bris-tled, and while the US Secret Service was busy turning several suites of Accra's Continental Hotel into a miniature war room" for Kissinger, Acheam-pong issued a terse press state-ment, giving what must go down in history as perhaps the most bizarre excuse ever given by one statesman for not being able to see another. Acheampong claimed he had developed "a boil on his bottom", and con-

sequently had been ordered to his bed by his doctor. I was reminded of these vignettes of America's relations with Africa by the fivenation tour that the present Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has just made to Africa. Christopher carried in his pockets two very controversial proposals. The first suggested the establishment, with American financial assistance. of an "African Intervention. Force", to he sent to areas of civil strife. His second idea was to canvass African support for the US campaign to prevent the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Boutros Boutros-

existed in 1994, and had been

dispatched to Rwanda, it would

doubtless have been able to

Ghali, from being elected to a second term. On the face of it, the "African global order. Intervention Force" idea is From this perspective, the quite sound. If such a force had US desire to remove Boutros-

sis hrutally slaughtered by

But why is the US exhibiting this concern for the lives of Africans now, when in 1994, it failed to provide the UN which had troops in Rwanda with thebacking that could have enabled it to save the lives of the Tutsis? And why isn't the US providing adequate financial assistance to support the West African Ecomog (economic community monitoring

group) force sent to save lives in Liberia? In fact, the UN feit so weak in Rwanda that it actually withdrew the bulk of its troops from Rwanda, just as the terrible genocide was beginning. The blame for this must be shared equally by the UN secretariat and the permanent members of the Security Council. But the US must take the greater portion of the blame, for as the only acknowledged "superpower" left from the Cold War, it ought to contribute most to

the UN's peace-keeping efforts, Yet the US has deliberately refused 10 pay its contributions to the UN. This creates the suspicion that the US secretly resents the UN's ever-increasng role, as the only "rival" to America's desired status as moderator-in-chief of the new

Ghali from the UN also

appears sinister. Has the Sec-

retary-General proved imper-

ing"? Surely Boutros-Ghali is hardly the first Secretary-Gen-eral to exhibit "personal failings"? Why, only in the past week, the first-ever Secretary-General of the UN, the late Trygve Lie, was exposed by a Norwegian journalist as someone who passed secret information to the fnunders of

In any case, was it not insensitive for a US Secretary of State to go to Africa and urge Africans to ditch the first-ever African Secretary-General? No wonder Mr Christopher was rebuffed: on the African Intervention Force, he was told by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa: "If this initiative is to succeed, it must have credibility. It must not come from one country. It should be the

initiative of the United Nations.' But it was a minister from France - a country that is America's ally - who poured the most withering sarcasm upon Mr Christopher's African safari. French opposition might. of course, be connected with the fact that France maintains troops in several African countries and could see its influence wane if the American proposal

for an African intervention forcer were adopted. France's Minister for Cooperation, Jacques Godfrain, said: "Since Bill Clinton hasn't been to Africa once, since he didn't even mention Africa in his speech before the UN General Assembly, and since US

delighted to see the President showing interest in Africa and making it a priority three weeks before the [US] presidential elections."

Washington was outraged.

The State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, Godfrain remained adamant.

through past foreign intervention, will surely retort: "A plague on both your houses!" has reacted to the French jibes with restraint. In a speech in South Africa he said, "The time has passed when Africa could be carved up into spheres nf influence, or when outside powers could view whole groups of states as their private domain.

patronage of a few." Perhaps these fine sentiin Africa, can last into the next

ANDREW MARR says: "Prospect is a must." PEREGRINE WORSTHORNE: "The mind is enlivened as well as stretched." ANDREW SULLIVAN: "The superb new monthly."

said Godfrain's comment was "a ludicrous charge" and "ought to be retracted." But The affair has developed into a row between Paris and Washington over whether any foreign country can claim Africa as its "private domain". To which

Africans, who have lost so much

Warren Christopher himself Africa needs the support of its many friends, not the exclusive

ments will spur Mr Christopher to seek to strengthen the UN, through which both France and the US can contribute to the welfare of Africa without arousing suspicion. And surely it is impossible to imagine that the "client state", semi-independent status that France has bestowed on its former colonies

save the lives of some of the vious to American "arm-twistforeign development aid has

Professor Edith Penrose

Few women have had as disringuished a record as an economist as Edith Penrose. She was influential in the affairs of many countries and provided many new ideas on management, patents and petroleum, as a writer, as a member of committees and as a university professor.

Her hest known book. The Theory of the Growth of the Firm, published in 1959, brought her instant recognition as a creative thinker, and its importance to the analysis of the job of management has been increasingly realised. Earlier, she had published in 1951 a study of the economics of the international patents system. In 1968 she produced a book on the international petroleum inoustry, following it with a collast book, written with her



husband, was on Iraq in 1978. Edith Tilton was born in Los Angeles in 1914 and began her university education there, marrying in 1934 at the age of 19 the surveyor of Californian High-way No 1, David Denhardt, who

with a baby son (now Professor of Chemistry of Rutgers College). By that time she had moved to Baltimore, to take her MA and PhD under the supervision of Fritz Machlup at Johns Hopkins University, writing a thesis on the growth of the Hercules Powder Company that formed the basis for her later work on the growth of the firm.

At John Hopkins she met Ernest Penrose, who held a chair in Economics and whom she eventually married in 1944 after working alongside him in Geneva and Toronto in the International Labour Office from 1939 to 1941. She also accompanied him to London where he was special adviser to John Winant, the US Ambassador, while she was appointed Special Assistant to him. From her secand marriage she had three sons and enjoyed 40 years of happy married life before Pen's death in 1984. She had returned with her

husband to Johns Hopkins in 1950 and was hased there for the next 10 years. But after a campaign they conducted in support of Owen Lattimore, a professor accused of un-American activities, they fell foul of McCarthy and were more or less exiled, first to Australian National University in Canberra in 1955-56 on a Guggenheim fellowship, and then to Baghdad University in 1957-59. Thereafter they came to London in 1960 where she spent most of the next two decades.

At first she divided her time between the London School of Economics and the School of Oriental and African Studies, until in 1964 she accepted an ap-pointment at SOAS as Profes-

tions to go to Dar es Salaam in 1971-72 and Toronto in 1973. In due course she formed other attachments to British universities: to what became Templeton College, Oxford, from 1982 to 1985 and to Bradford University from 1989 to 1992. Somehow she managed to squeeze in seven years at INSEAD (Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires) in Fontainebleau between 1977-84, serving as Associate Dean in her last two years. By that time she was moving over more and more into management education.

These academic apppoint-ments were combined with many other activities. She was a member of the Sainsbury Committee on the pharmacu-tical industry from 1965 to 1967 and the Medicines Commission

reference to Asia, which she in 1975-78, and joined a com-held until 1978 with interrup-mittee on Chemical Research Ethics set up by the Royal College of General Practitioners. She also served on a variety of associations of economists, chairing the Economic Com-mittee of the SSRC/ESRC from 1970 to 1976, as Governor of the National Institute from 1974, on the Council of the Royal Economic Society from 1975 to 1980, a Director of the Commonwealth Development Corporation from 1975 to 1978 and a member of the Overseas Development Institute from 1992 to 1994. She received many honours, including honorary doctorates from the Universities of Upsala and Helsinki and an award in 1986 from the British Association of Energy Economists for her many dis-

tinguished contributions.

A few years ago, she joined

forces with me in trying to persuade the European Court of Justice to refrain from using anti-dumping legislation against imports of low-cost Japanese photocopying machines, but without effect. The legislation was particularly unfair since the Japanese had helped to establish the industry in Europe. But the judges were unmoved by her arguments, leaving us convinced that they had very odd ideas of what constituted

dumping.

Edith Penrose was petite. good-looking and very femi-nine. She had a balanced and attractive personality and spoke clearly and authoritatively. She was a popular member of Robert Mabro's Oxford Energy Policy Group from its foundation 20 years ago, the only woman present among the tycoons from the oil industry. What she had

to say was always becomed to with great attention and deservedly so. She was always well-informed, sensible and penetrating in her judgements and kind in her expression of them.

Alec Calracross

Edith Tilton, economist; hom Los Angeles 20 November 1914; As-Angeles 29 November 1914; 48-sociate Professor of Economics, University of Baghdad 1957-59; Reader in Economics, LSE und SOAS, London University 1960-64; Professor of Economics, SOAS 1964-78 (Emerines). Head, Department of Econom. ics 1964-79; Professor, INCEAD 1977-84 (Enwritus), Associate Dean for Research and Development 1982-84; married 1934 David Denlaudt (died 1958; one son), 1944 Ernest Penrose (died 1984: two sons and one son de-ceased); died Waterbeavit, Cam-bridgeshire 11 October 1996.

Berthold Goldschmidt

died four years later, leaving her

When the 20th century closes and lists are drawn up of the fig-ures who distinguished it. the name of the composer and conductor Berthold Goldschmidt will rank high. But amazingly, after some early success in his native Germany, and his flight from Hitler to England in 1935, he endured more than half a century of semi-obscurity before achieving new recognition and finally, in his nineties, interna-

Born and hrought up in Hamhurg, Goldschmidt was the second of the four children of Adolf Goldschmidt and his wife Henriette. Encouraged by them in his early musical ambitions, he was soon attending concerts and operas, and in 1922 he hegan his studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, primarily as a member of Franz Schreker's composition class, hut also as a conducting student of Rudolf Krasselt

After obtaining his diplomas and winning the Mendelssohn Prize with his Passacaglia for orchestra, he began his career in 1924 as a coach in the Dessau Opera House, Returning to Berlin in 1925, he found through Schreker an entrée to the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra as a freelance celesta player in complicated modern works. Again as celesta player, he took part in the world première, under Erich Kleiber, of Alban Berg's Wozzeck at the Staatsoper in 1925. Soon after, Kleiber conducted the première of his Passacaglia.

Goldschmidt's first important Carl Ebert at the Landestheater in Darmstadt, where he remained from 1927 until 1930. when Ebert brought him back

to Berlin as his assistant at the City Opera (Städtischer Oper). Already before leaving Darm-stadt, Goldschmidt had begun work on his early masterpiece Der gewaltige Hahrrei, an opera hased on Ferdinand Crommelynck's play Le Cocu magnifique. Meyerhold's historic production for the Moscow Arts Theatre had made a great impression on tour in Germany and else-where, though the play was also commercially successful, on account of its "scandalous" subject matter. (A London production in the 1930s memorably started Peggy Ashcroft as the wife who is pushed into multi-

ple infidelities by her mon-

strous husband.)

Der gewaltige Hahnrei was one of the last works by a Jewish composet to be staged in Germany hefore the Nazis came to power. After its successful première in Mannheim in 1932, Ebert announced a Berlin production for the 1933-34 season at the Staatsoper, But in fact the opera was not to be seen again for more than 60 years: Harry Kupfer's 1994 staging at Berlin's Komische Oper coincided with the release of Decca's recording of the work and was almost simultaneous with the world stage-première of Goldschmidt's second and last opera, Beatrice Cenci composed with an Arts Council prize, for the Festival of Britain in 1951, to a libretto adapted from Shelley by Mar-

It was not easy for Goldschmidt to establish a foothold ter his arrival in 1935. At first he eked out a living by teach-ing and coaching. However, a commission from Kurt Jooss for

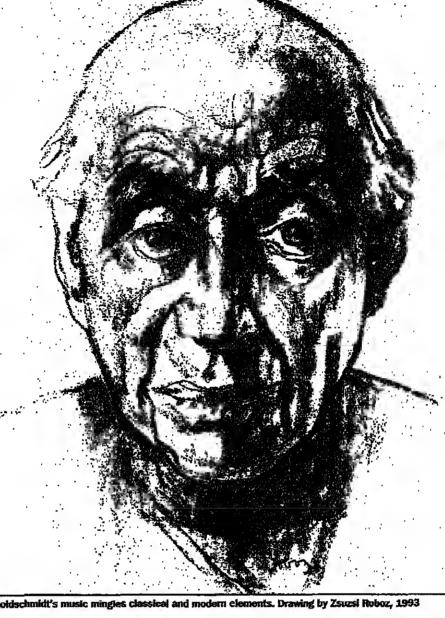
a score for his anti-fascist ballet Chronica proved highly op-portune in 1938. Although the hallet had to be staged in a diplomatically censored form, it was successfully toured in Britain and in the Americas shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War.

During the war years Goldschmidt had little inducement to compose, and was latterly largely occupied with his work for the BBC World Service at Bush House - where his friendship and collaboration with Martin Esslin began. His main task was to arrange and some-times to conduct hroadcasts to Germany of concerts which featured, among other things, music by such "forbidden" masters as Mendlessohn.

One of his earliest hopes in England had been to work with Carl Ebert at the newly established Glyndebourne Opera. But these were soon dashed, for Ebert and his colleagues had already engaged as many refugees from Germany as current labour regulations allowed. In 1947, however, Goldschmidt received an eleventh-hour invitation to replace George Szell as conductor of Ebert's Glyndebourne production of Verdi's Macbeth at the first Edinburgh International Festival. The critics were enthusiastic, although in several cases they were still under the impression that the conductor had heen Szell.

Despite this "successful" British déhut as opera conductor, Goldschmidt's talents in this field were exploited only by the tion had been made in Scotland, and led to a long-lived guest conductorship with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra which ended when Goldschmidt reached 60.

By then the musical ethos of the BBC had been radically changed. Goldschmidt's three large-scale concertos of the 1950s - respectively for violin, clarinet, and cello - had all been given their premières in BBC studios. But their musical language which owed more to the classicism of Busoni and perhaps of Hindemith than to the eclectic lushness and romantic expressionism of his teacher Schreker, was ill-suited to the modernist criteria which prevailed in a period already dominated by the influence of Boulez, Stockhausen, and Nono. With the appointment in 1960 of William Glock as the



Goldschmidt's music mingles classical and modern elements. Drawing by Zsuzsi Roboz, 1993

era had begun.

Though keenly interested in all new developments, Goldschmidt remained fundamentally unsympathetic to Schoenberg and Webern, and to their post-war advocates in the so-called Darmstadt school. Feeling himself out of joint with the musical times, he had allowed his Mediterranean Songs of 1958 to acquire the character of a farewell to composition: for nearly a quarter of a century he fell silent and did not resume composing until the time once again seemed to be ripe.

However, he was by no means without support in the BBC of the 1960s. Among his closest friends and associates there were the composer Robert Simpson and the musicologist

BBC's Controller, Music, a new Deryck Cooke. Recalling Goldschmidt's pioneering perfor-mances of Mahler in the 1950s Cooke had turned to him for advice while working on his reconstruction of Mahler's uncompleted Tenth Symphony; and it was Goldschmidt who conducted the first performances of the Cooke version, both in England and in Germany.

At the age of 80, Goldschmidt returned to composition, ostensibly in response to an invitation to compose a quartet for the clarinettist Gervase de Peyer and three members of the Amadeus Quartet. In fact the quartet was his first response to a sense that the musical climate had changed once again and that there were new and young audiences for his music both in Europe and the US.

There followed a steady flow of compositions, in which the mingling of classical and modern elements which had been characteristic of his music since the 1920s is developed with new energy and originality. The years of silence had seemed tragic for their waste, but in truth they had not been wasted. For the Berthold Goldschmidt of the last years had lost none of his youthful vigour and humour, but had found a place for himself in the musical world that even his greatet admirers would once

have found almost unimaginable. John Calder

Berthold Goldschmidt, composer and conductor: born Hamburg 18 January 1903; married 1936 Karen Bothe (died 1979); died London 17 October 1996.

David Gilroy Bevan

The first word that comes to mind when one thinks of David Gilrov Bevan is boisterous. That is in no way to suggest that he was a roisterer: he was, in fact, a teetotaller. But he was a man who campaigned in the General Election of 1979 in a red bus, followed by a fire engine which, he said, was to carry away bodies unhuried by local authorities during Lord Callaghan's winter of discontent in 1978, and who went on to win the supposedly safe Labour seat of Birmingham, Yardley with a majority of over 2,000 in a general election year in which most opinion polls predicted a

Conservative defeat. Gilroy Bevan began his political career at a tender age: he was only 14 when he went canvassing his neighbours in the Conservative interest. Over the years, he acquired a quite ex-ceptional knowledge of how local authorities worked (he served on Birmingham City Council and later the West Midlands County Council from 1959 to 1981); and it was this knowledge that he put to good use in winning Yardley. His achievement can be compared to that of Charles Morrison, who - totally against the then odds - won Devizes for the Tories in 1963 and Teddy (now Sir Teddy) Taylor who served as MP for the same party in the working-class constituency of Glasgow from 1964 tn 1979. when the seat was so radically altered by the Boundaries Commission that even a heroically active candidate could

One of the great things about Gilroy Bevan was how much he enjoyed the mundane, and often simply boring, husiness of local government. The combination of flambovance and assiduity in his character appealed mightily to his constituents: in 1983 he even won applause from them by declaring that the only thing he had against Yardley was the fact that it lacked a racht basin. It was, alas for him, the exu-

berance of his nature which denied him governmental office. Whips - and ministers or shadow ministers - are invariably consulted on appointments. William Whitelaw considered Gilroy Bevan not reliable enough even to enjoy the plea-sures and pains of being a Parliamentary Private Secretary the lowest form of governmental life; he was just too difficult.

Whenever his party - quite understandahly - wanted to fudge an issue. Gilroy Bevan opposed them. He supported capital punishment in 1981, opposed sanctions on the old South Africa throughout its existence, and managed to hold Yardiey until his defeat in

But he had a life outside polities. Born 68 years ago, the son of an evangelical minister and his equally religiously uncom-



Photograph; News Team

promising wife, David Gilrov Bevan (like Antony Crustand in the Labour Party) went on to defy the austere instincts of his parents. He made a inrtune as an estate agent in Birmingham, and purchased a yatht and a hause in Spain.

But all the while, he was known for his combination of indulgence, ececutricity and decency. The yacht was an indulgence; his support of a charbears to deprived children (including two bears given from his own substantial collection); and his essential - if somewhat derided - support of the "Keep Sunday Special" campaign all testified to the essential honour

of the man's character. David Gilroy Bevan sat, for a while, on the Select House of Commons Committee nn Transport. But I will lay odds that he never took money (nr asking a question. To adapt a phrase, "By their words shall ye know them".

Patrick Cosgrave

Andrew David Gilroy Bevan, estate agent and politician: born 10 April 1928: MP (Conservative) for Birmingham. Yardley 1979-92; married 1967 Cynthia Ann Villiers Boulstridge (one son, three daughters); died 12 October 1996.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

McWALTERS: On 2 October at Lewisham Hospital, London, to Mary Ince Coloe) and Turn, a son, Callum Thomas, a brother for Fergus, Mary thanks to midwife Shall and all smill DEATHS

GOLDSCHMIDT: Berthold, on 17 October, peacefully in his sleep at home, aged 43. In accordance with his wishes the cremation will be private. Please no flowers or cards. A memo-rial concert will take place in 1997 to celebrate his life and his music.

TOPPING: On 17 October 1996, the Rev Dom Christopher Topping, aged 80 years, mods of Ampleforth Abbey. Requiem Mass Monday 21 October. Ampleforth Abbey at 12 noon. For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax to 0171-293 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line IVAT extra .

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS TOMORROW: The Duke of Edinburgh. WWF International, begins a 5 day visit to Germany and will attend the WWF An-mual Conference in Berlin The Prince of

Wales, President, WaterAid, hosts a re-ception at Balmoral Castle. Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Owen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. Ham: Ist Battalian The Royal Regiment of Wales mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingmounts the Queen's Chan, band provided by the Scots Guards, TOMORROW: The House-hold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Oueen's Life Guard at Horse Guards.

Birthdays

Photograph: Lebrecht Collection

hmidt rehearsing Mahler's 10th Symphony with the Philarmonic

TODAY: Mr Jack Anderson, news-paper columnist, 74: Sir Leslie Bore-ham, former High Court judge, 78; Professor Sir Robert Boyd, physicist, 74: Mr Matthew Carrington MP, 49; Dr David Clark MP, 57: Mr David Cornwell (John Le Carré), novelist, 65: Sir John Cullen, former chairman Mr John Evans MP, 66; Professor Richard Freeborn, Emerius Protessor of Russiao Literature at London University, 70: The Very Rev David Frayne, Provost of Black-burn, 62; Mr Bernard Hepton, actor, 7t; Mr Gavin Hewitt, Ambassador to Croatia, 52; Dr Robin Holloway. composer and Lecturer in Music, Cambridge University, 53; Mr Paul Holmer, former ambassador to Romania, 73; Sir Robert Jennings, QC. tormer president, international Court of Justice, 83; Miss Rosamund John, actress, 83; Mr Graham Lock, former chief executive, Amalgamat-ed Metal, 65; Mr Bill Morris, tradeunion leader, 58; Miss Mavis Nicholson, broadcaster, 66; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, 80; Sir Allan Ramsay, former ambas-sador to Morcoco, 59; Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, former Deputy Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, 63; Sir Harold Walker, former ambassador to Iraq, 64; Major Sir Patrick Wall, former MP, 80; Mr Peter Whiston, ar-

TOMORROW: Sir James Ackers, former chairman. West Midlands Regional Health Ambority, 61; Mr Hume Boggis-Rolfe, barrister and farmer, 85; Sir Edwin Bolland, former diplomat, 74; Mr Art Buchwald, newspaper columnist, 71: Mr Chris Cowdrey, cricketer, 39; Professor Sir Bernard Crossland, mechanical engineer, 73; Mi Lawrence Daly, for-mer trade-union leader. 72; The Right Rev Joseph Gray, Roman Catholic bishop of Shrewsbury, 77;

Mr Al Greenwood, rock musician, 45: Professor Sir Douglas Hague, chair man, Oxford Strategy Network, 70; The Rev James Harkness, Modera-tor of the Church of Scotland, 61; Mr Colin Jeavons, actor, 67; Mr Eddie Macken, showjumper, 47; Judge Deirdre McKinney, circuit judge, 68; Mr John Milne Home, former Lord-Lieutenant, Dumfries and Galloway, 80: Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, founder, National Motor Museum 70: Mr Tom Petty, guitarist and singer, 43; Sir Anthony Reeve, forssador to South Africa, 58; Mr tan Rush, footballer, 35; Professor Samuel Saul, former Vice-Chancellor of York University, 72; Sir William Shapland, chartered accountant, 84; Sir Alexander Stirling, former diplomat, 70; The Hon Emma Tennant, writer, 59; Mr Timothy West, actor, 62.

Anniversaries Births: Alfred Dreyfus, army officer, 1859, Auguste-Marie Louis-Nicolas Lumiere, photographic pioneer, 1862. Deaths: Jonathan Swift, author, attrist and clergyman, 1745; George Mortimer Pullman, sleeping-car manufacturer, 1897; Ernest, first Baron Rutherford of Nelson, physicist, 1937. On this day: Napoleon began his retreat from Moscow, 1812; Wagner's opera Tannhauser was first performed, Dresden, 1845; the People's Republic of China was pro-claimed, 1949; President Samora Machel of Mozambique and about 30 of his staff were killed in the plane crash on the South African border, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Aquilinus of Evreux, St Charles Garnier, St Cleopatra, St Ethbin, St Frideswide, St Gabriel Lalemant, Saints Jean Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, St John of Lalande, St Noel Chabanel. St Paul of the Cross, St Peter of Alcantara, St Philip Howard, ilors Ptolemaeus and Lucius St Rene Goupil and St Varus.

TOMORROW: Births: Sir Christo pher Wren, mathematician and ar-chitect, 1632; Odilon Redon, painter and lithographer, 1840; Jean-Nico-las Arthur Rimbaud, poet, 1854; Charles Edward Ives, composer, 1874; Anna Neagle (Marjorie Robertson), actress, 1904. Deaths: Jacopo della Quercia, sculptor, 1438; Sir Richard Francis Burton, explorer and Arabic scholar, 1890; Jack Buchanan, actor and singer, 1957; Bud Flanngan (Robert Winthrop), "Crazy Gang" comedian, 1968; Sir John Anthony Quayle, actor, 1989, On this day the Standard Transcreet For this day: the Sunday Times was first published, 1822; in Italy, Benito Mussolini, Pascist leader, seized power 1922; Aristotle Onassis married Jacqueline Kennedy, 1968; the Sydncy Opera House was opened to the public, 1973. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Acca. St Andrew the Calybite of Crete, St Artemius, St Bertilla Boscardin and St Caprasius of Agen.

Lectures TODAY

British Museum: Lorna Qukes, "Assyrian Art", 1.15pm. National Gallery: Mari Griffith, Wine (iv): Ter Brugghen The Concert". 12 noon. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Roderick Swanston "Music and the Grand Tour", Dr Kevin Keohane A memorial celebration for the life of Dr Kevin Keohane will be held at St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Southwark, on Friday 8 November at 11am. Friends and

colleagues will be welcome and those

wishing to attend should, if they have

not already done so, contact Mrs LS. Hall, The Nuffield Foundation,

28 Bedford Square, London WC1B

3EG (0171 631 0566).

Consecrated virgins on the Internet I was speaking at recent conference on

church communications, which put me in a difficult position, since I could not work out how to heckle myself, and don't know many other ways to interact with anthority. The audience were for the most part worried men, whose lives were complicated because hishops wouldn't talk to them, and journalists would, if only to ask for access to their bishops. There were a couple of Catholics, delicately smug, for everyone knows that their hishops are so exhausted by their ceaseless conversations with God that they have nothing of interest to say for the secular media. But for the most part, the audience were Anglican priests, worrying about how to do an un-usually impossible job, for a change.

One of the things that worried them was the Internet. There is a natural affinity between the clergy and personal computers. Priests are for the most part intelligent, educated, and with small pusinesses to run: a parish may not make any money, but it needs as much organisation as anything more profitable. They are also, often, lonely: isolated by their status, their beliefs, or their education. So they tend to play around a lot on the Internet, once they have discovered it. As a means for informal internal communication, this is fine. I listen in myself on a couple of discus-

sion groups and learn surprising things. The question is whether the Church can make any more constructive use of the net, and how this will change the churches that do so. Just as priests are in the market for computers because they run small enterprises, so churches may be flattened by the new technology because they are all, even the Church of England, at some lev-

faith **o**reason

What effect will computers and the Internet have on the Church? Andrew Brown is intrigued and concerned by the possibilities - and the range of theological information online,

into which computers has come has reacted by sacking more people than any-one could have imagined ten years before the computers arrived. Yet it may be that churches will be among the organisations least damaged by this kind of thing. A company which has been ripped apart by men with spreadsheets is much more like a voluntary association than an institution with pension funds and so forth, and most churches have reached that state already. Even media companies pay better at the bottom of the scale than churches do. The last sizeable church bureaucracies that are still run as companies were before computers arrived are at the World Council of Churches and and the headquarters of the Episcopal Church of the USA; and

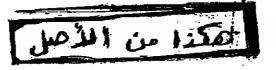
both are facing terrible staff cuts anyway. So the churches may well be spared much of the impact that computer networks will have on society outside them, though of course they must deal with the consequences. What remains is the unpact that the Internet will have on the spread el organisations. Every other organisation of ideas, Some of the technology is already

having startling consequences. Westcott House, a theological college in Cambridge, runs an e-mail service for enquirers about theology. Students, faculty, and even the hishop have all helped to answer serious enquiries seriously in a way which no other medium could make half as easy. Then there are sites which will find you hible quotations in six different English translations and four foreign languages.

The Roman Catholic church has been particularly good at publishing its documents online. Needing to find out about consecrated virgins in a hurry, I was able tn find and read the text of a letter on this improving subject from Pope Pius XII within five minutes of starting a search. Such tightly focused discussions are not to be confused with the insane ramblings of the usenet discussions haunted by illiterate students from around the world. Sturgeon's law, that 99 per cent of everything is crap, undergoes a strange mutation in the multidimensionality of cyberspace, so that nut there, 999 per cent of everything is.

All this sounds wonderful. It empowers consumers of religion as it empowers consumers of everything else. It puts them all into a glnbal market. I can order my books from Amazon.com in Scattle. Why should I not order my theology from the Billy Graham Library! The problem is that "consuming" religion is not what the religious are supposed to do. To adapt to your market is to adapt to this world, perhaps fatally.

One last point. It may seem an imposition lo devnte an entire article to God and the Internet, but at least I got all the way to the end without using the word



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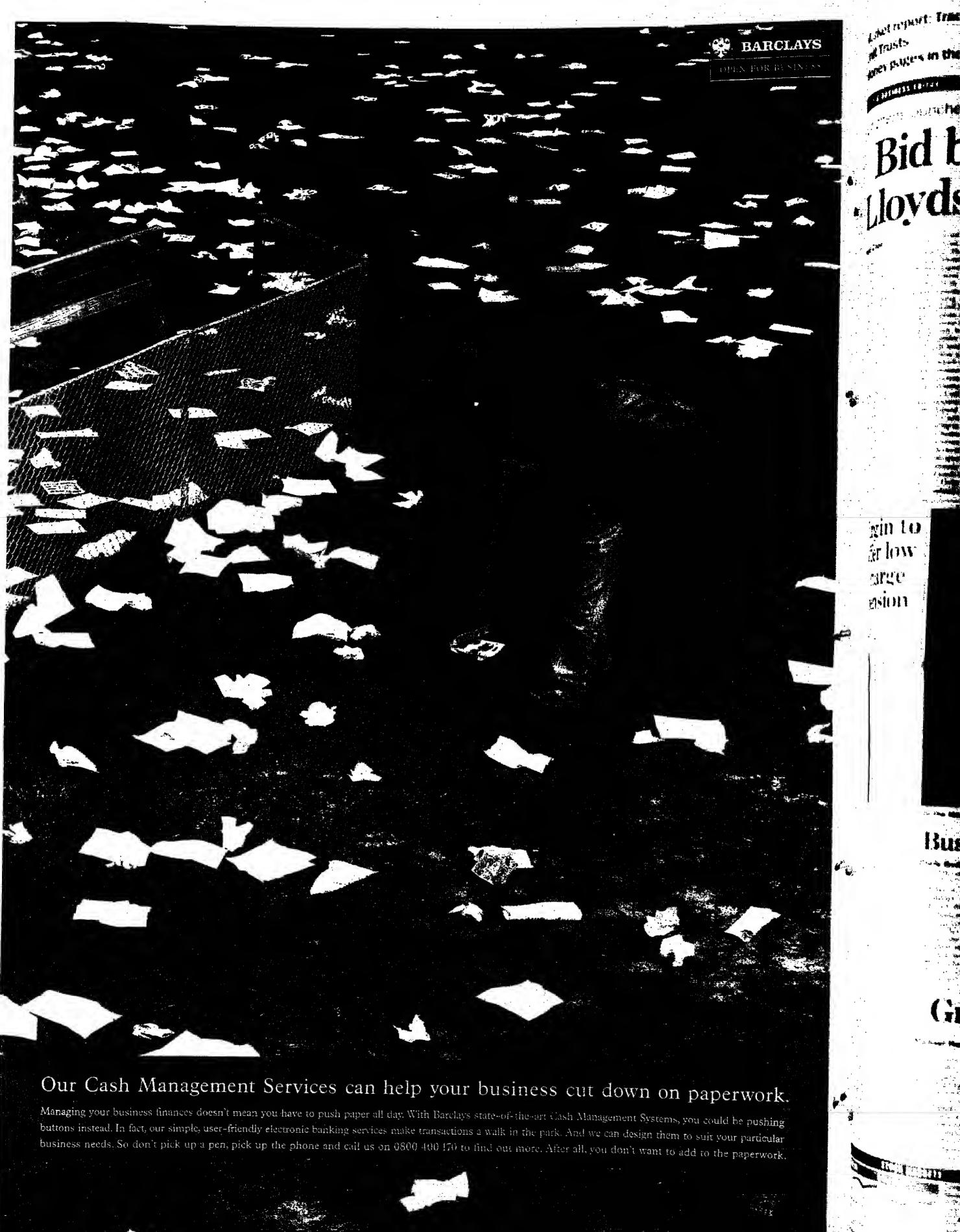
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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Bid battle for Lloyds resumes

The bid battle for Lloyds Chemists sparked into life again vesterday when UniChem renewed its 505.5p per share offer valuing Lloyds at £657m. UniChem made its move moments after the Department of Trade and Industry said it was satisfied with undertakings given by UniChem and rival bidder Gehe to make the required disposals of warehouses in the event of a successful takeover.

Gehe, the German pharmaceuticals group, said it was "evaluating" its position hut was still interested in Lloyds. Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe's management board said: "We helieve that UniChem would face significant risks in acquiring Lloyds Chemists given the relative size of the companies."

Lloyds Chemists board advised its shareholders to "take no action" on UniChem's offer. It said it noted Gehe's continuing interest. Lloyds Chemist shares increased by 17.5p to
521.5p, comfortably above

Gehe still has 21 days to
submit a revised offer. Though

UniChem shares fell 9p to 249p.
The re-opening of the 10

month bid saga was given added significance hy the government's move to end price contrals on over-the-counter medicines following a long running campaign by Asda. UniChem shrugged nff suggestions that the possible end of price fixing would harm its retail husiness which operates under the Moss Chemists name. It said 88 per cept of its husiness is prescription medicines which are unaffected by the announcement. Only 3 per cent of its remaining sales are over-the-

UniChem's offer is almost identical to its revised hid which lapsed in March. It is offcring 16 new UniChem shares and 926p in cash for every 10 Lloyds Chemists shares held. The difference is that there is no underwritten cash alternative and no special dividend. UniChem already owns 9.9 per cent of

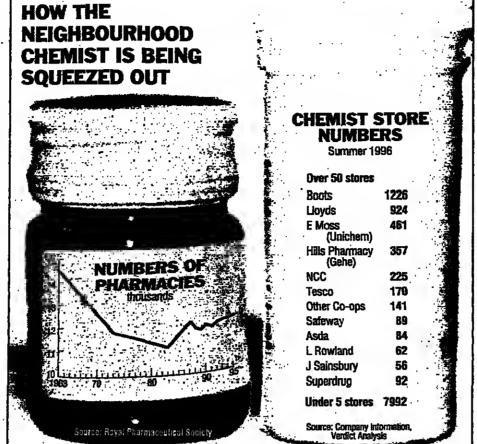
counter medicines.

UniChem's offer price. Gehe has said Lloyds is now worth less due to the recent its drop to £47m last week - analysts said UniChem's move may farce it to bid higher.

Gehe criticised UniChem's offer saying it ignored the fall in profits. It said the deal would dilute earnings in the first year and that reorganisation costs would be higher than nriginal-

Justifying the renewed affer UniChem's chief executive Jeffrey Harris said: "The core business of Lloyds Chemists is as valuable to us as it has ever been. I am confident that we can deliver what we have promised including earnings enhancement after the first year."

The reorganisation costs - estimated at £34m - are largely due to closing Lloyds under-performing drugstore chain. Mr. Harris said cost savings would be achieved through increased buying power, rationalisation of the distribution network and reduction of central overheads. These savings would contribute



ating profits in the first year after the takeover and £20m a

more than £15m towards oper- £650m offer for Lloyds in Jan- they were referred to the Mouary. Gehe made a similar offer the following month. Both subsequently raised their offers UniChem made its original but they lapsed in March when

nopolies and Mergers Commission. Both sides had to agree to sell seven wholesale ware-

Pharmacies will be the big losers

The City yesterday shrugged off news that the Office of Fair Trading is to take steps to end resale price maintenance on over-the-counter medicines. saying the impact on the major pharmacy groups would be lim-ited. Analysts said the end of price fixing would benefit the major pharmacy chains such as Boots, Britain's largest chemist, which would be able to use their economies of scale to cut prices and drive volumes higher.

Supermarkets such as Asdu. which led the campaign for cheaper medicines, should also benefit. Asda claimed the OFT decision was a "victory for ordinary working people". It also represents a personal triumph for Archie Norman, Asda's chairman, who started the campaign a year ago. He is now the prospective Conservative candidate for Tunbridge Wells.

The real loser of the OFT's decision is expected to be the smaller pharmacies, which are already losing much of their regular toiletries business to the major supermarkets. Manufacturers and wholesalers will also find their margins squeezed. However, it is by no means

will lead to a change in the law. The issue must first he reviewed by the Restrictive Prac-tices Court. The Community Pharmacy Action Group, which represents smaller chemists, is certain to campaign for Government intervention. Boots shares fell 5.5p to

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638.5p on the news while Kingfisher, owner of the Superdrug chain, only fell a penny to 654.5p. Markets, said the impact on the market was unlikely to be sig-nificant. He said that since the collapse of the Net Book Agreement last year, only 4 per cent of books were being dis-counted, "WH Smith has gained market share in books since the Net Book Agreement collapsed," he said, "Boots should be able to do the same. It is the corner shop, which relies on convenience trade on the

high street, that will suffer." Boots said it was surprised and disappointed by the OFT decision: "We firmly believe that RPM operates in the publie interest and that this will be the conclusion of the Restrictive Practices Court in due course,

was disappointed by the move.

Virgin to offer low charge pension

Virgin Direct, part of the airline cola empire owned by Richard Branson, yesterday extended its move into financial services with the launch of a new personal pension which the company claimed was among the cheapest in the market. The Virgin personal pension, which will be sold over the tele-

phooe, will impose a charge of £2 on initial contributions, irrespective of their size. Annual management fees are 1 per cent. Unlike pensions products from other life companies. Vir-

gin said that it will impose no penalties for stopping, changing, restarting, increasing nr de-creasing contributions. For monthly contributions of

£250 lasting 15 years, the company claimed its charges to new customers would be about 10 per cent over the pension's lifetime assuming 9 per cent growth a year, equal to Equitable Life. By contrast. Pradential's

charges would cost 14 per cenl of a pension's payout and Barclays Life would charge 18 per cent over the same period. Rowan Gormley, managing

director of the Virgin Direct insurance business, said the company aimed to force the pensions industry out of its "complacency" with the new product. The impact will probably be

quite disproportionate compared to the volumes we do, hecanse existing-products are opaque and charges are too high." he said.

"Now someone has set a standard for simple, straightforward low charges, there will be pressure to stand up to that." But other companies claimed yesterday that Virgin's product, which invests in the same FTSE All Share tracker fund as its Growth PEP could miss out of potential gains from world stock

markets. Nigel Emery, pensions marketing director at Save & Prosper, said: "Active management allows fund managers to choose. which areas of both UK and world stock markets to invest in. If the UK does less well compared with other parts of the

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On the blacklist: Pen Kent, as a director of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, may be barred from the US

Businesses face US ban over Cuba links

Business Correspondent

A total of 27 leading British companies and organisations and their directors face being hlacklisted in the United States. under the controversial Helms-Burton Act which gives authorities the power to exclude businesses and individuals from the US if they have done hasiness in Cuba.

The list, ohtained by Bryan Cassidy, a Conservative Euro-

MP, from the US House of Rep-resentatives international is the Commonwealth Devel-sue projects in Cuba, had not takrelations sub-committee, in-chides The Body Shop, tobac-co group BAT, chemicals giant £1.5bn of investment projects in chides The Body Shop, tobac-co group BAT, chemicals giant ICI, shipping firm P&O. Unilever and drugs grnup Glaxo-Wellcome.

He warned yesterday that not only the companies themselves, hut directors and their company BP with responsibilifamilies could be expelled from ty for refinery operations. the United States or barred from entry. Up to 318 European companies could be affected.

developing countries. CDC di-rectors include Pen Kent, who is also a director of the Bank of England, and Russell Seal, a main board director of the oil

However Sean Magee, a CDC director, said last night that the en any action in the country. He said the CDC's understanding of the Helms-Burton legislation was that those affected had to deal with assets confiscated during the Cuban revolution and at this stage no money had been spent and no directors had trav-elled to Cuba on business.

"However we are watching developments closely. It could have extremely serious impli-

Consumer boom takes credit card spending to £4bn

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

Britons have been reacquainling themselves with their flex-ible frieods. Thanks to the amusement parks and bowling gathering consumer boom, alleys. Use of credit was up 31 spending on plastic is growing at a record pace, with much of the increase being splurged on entertainment and hotels.

£4.1hn last month, up nearly a in broad money grnwth last quarter compared with a year month. earlier, and debil card spending reached £3.3hn, a 44 per cent rise, according to statistics from the Credil Card Research Group, a trade body for the country's main card issuers. Separate figures published by the high street banks yesterday showed that personal loans, including credit card borrowing, was nearly two-thirds higher last month than a year earlier, at £409m compared with £250m last September.

There is every sign, too, that the spending spree is in its infancy. Household purchasing power adjusted for taxes and inflation is growing at its fastest pace for four years. By next March the flavour of the late 1980s might well have returned, when high earners in the City of London receive their honuses after a humper year in 1996.

According to the CCRG, one

of the biggest rises in both further signal of the new buoy-credil and debit in the year to ancy of the housing market September was spending on entertainment, which includes per cenl at £314m during the house prices continue to rise month, and debit spending climbed 60 per cent to £117m.

Other figures showed strong Credit card spending was mortgage lending and a surge

> If key figures next week, including GDP for the third quarter of the year, are equally strong, the Bank of England will have an impressive arsenal of evidence in favour of higher interest rates. But analysts still expect the Chancellor, who vesterday held his pre-Budget away-day at country house Dorneywood with ministers and officials, to try to leave rates unchanged before the election.

New mortgage lending by the high street banks and building societies was 17 per cent higher than a year earlier in Sep-tember, at £1.5bn, although both reported a dip during the month. The banks lost market share to the huilding societies, accounting for only £417m of the total.

Net advances made by the huilding societies were a remarkable 81 per cent higher

was an increase in the number of loans approved to 52,000. nearly a third higher than the same month last year. "This should ensure that

over the winter months," said Jonathan Loynes, an economist at HSBC Markets. The hanks' figures showed

that the corporate sector repaid loans in September. This was reflected in a weaker-thanexpected economy-wide total for lending, only £3.5hn compared with expectations of a £5bn-plus increase. Some economists took this as

sign that the recovery is patchy. But Michael Saunders at investment hank Salomons said the drop in corporate borrowing was probably due to the tailing off of takeover activity and the fact that manufacturers were borrowing less in finance excess stocks now these had been run down.

"All of these figures are reasonably huovant," he said. This buoyancy was mirrored by a 0.8 per cent jump in M4. the hroad money measure, taking its 12-month growth rate to 9.8 per cent from 9.5 per cent in

August.
The FTSE 100 index closed at a record 4,053.1 yesterday, up

Green signal for Stagecoach rail deal

Michael Harrison

The Government yesterday cleared the way for further mergers in the privatised rail industry by giving the go-ahead for Stagecoach's £825m takeover of the training leasing company, Porterbrook.

- Approval for the deal will make millionaires out of many of Porterbrook's 50 staff, led by managing director Sandy Anderson, who will make £36.2m out of his

Source: FT Information

fer the proposed takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, provided Stagecoach gave legally-binding undertakings to overcome competition

The undertakings, which will he policed by of the Office of Fair Trading, are designed to prevent Stagecoach from using Porterbrook to cross-subsidise its passenger rail franchises

brook to a management buy-out team backed by Charterhouse Development Capital for

£527m only ten months ago. Approval for the takeover by Stagecoach is now likely to trigger consolidation among nther train operating and train leasing companies. Nomura, which bought one of the other two rolling stock leasing compa-nies. Angel Train Contracts,

John Taylor, the corporate and discriminating against rival and consumer affairs minister, said he had decided not to re
and discriminating against rival ed that it will seek a link-up with train operator.

The undertakings also require Stagecoach to publish separate accounts for its train operating and rolling stock sinesses and to not use information gained from Porterhrook about competiturs to help its existing passenger fran-chises nr to aid it when ten-dering for further franchises.

Stagecoach already runs South West Trains and the Is- trains for South West Trains. CURRENCIES

land Line nn the Isle of Wigh Merseyrail. It also intends to bid for the seven franchises still to

be put out to tender. Keith Cochrane, Stagecoach's finance director, said the undertakings were broadly in line with those the company had offered itself when h announced the bid for Porterbrook in July. He said the approval would

enable Porterbrook to proceed with a £90m nrder for 30 new

Channel 5 to use BT for retuning

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

Channel 5, the new terrestrial television service, is poised to announce a deal with BT to cover the retuning of video recorders in Northern Ireland. The special arrangement, due to be announced next week, would involve BT personnel

on an appointments-only basis. The approach was demanded by the RUC which said door-todoor visits by Channel 5's own retuners would be unwise in the security-conscious province. The terms of the agreement have yet to be finalised. The two

sides were still negotiating a contract yesterday.

The news emerged as the In-dependent Television Commission formally confirmed il would accept a delayed launch for Channel 5, which is now likely to be on British television screens by 30 March, rather have been retuned. than 1 January as originally planned.

teething problems in the re-tuning nl millions of VCRs, made necessary because of likely interference from the Chanan additional frequency for the fore the expected launch.

signal has increased the numher of sets requiring retuning. David Elstein, chief executive nf the channel, said vesterday that the official start-up date would not be announced for some time. "Why should we say now what our launch date is and then have our competitors aggressively schedule against us?" he said. He added that the launch was likely to take place on Easter weekend, but said: "Our competitors will have to schedule on Friday. Saturday. Sunday and Monday, because they won't know exactly when we launch."

Mr Elstein hinted that there may be delays in starting the service in certain parts of the country, as a result of the retuning schedule. Under the terms of its ITC licence, Channel 5 can only begin broadcasting in a given transmission area once 90 per cent of homes

He added that discussions had begun with BSkyB to secure The delay is linked to a salellite transponder for Channel 5, but that no agreement had yet been reached. He said, however, that he expectcd satellite capacity to be found nel 5 signal. And the award of by the end of this year, well be-

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JEREMY WARNER

'in waitzed Kim Howells, Labour's competition spokesman, to tell them that the windfall profit tax was an act of spite that he heartily agreed with'

Why utility reform won't be an issue for Labour

took place this week under the umbrella of that usually restrained and well meaning organisation, the Fabian Society. For obvious reasons, it is fashionable these days, possibly to the point of necessity, for businessmen to attend any event where Labour hig wigs are going to be speaking. This particular one was organised by Neil Stewart, a New Labour groupie who now works for that master of commercial PR, Sir Tim Bell.

The conference was held under Chathan House rules, which means that nothing can be reported without permission, but since I was not there, I'm free to recount whatever I like.

Mr Stewart's theme was the well trodden one of utilities, regulation and windfall profit taxes. The main disappointment came when Mike O'Brien, Labour's shadow financial secretary, hilled as there to give a keynole address on Labour's plans for a windfall profit tax, refused to say anything about it at all. Much too sensitive, problematic and contentious for your ears, seemed, to his audience of utility types, to be his general demeanour. It was already money hack time, but there was worse.

In waltzed Kim Howells, Labour's competition spokesman, to tell them that the windfall profit tax was an act of spite that he heartily agreed with. It is Labour's political duty to be nasty to the utilities whether | be true.

News reaches me of an extraordinary it is justified or not, he said. It was therefore fracas, or rather series of them, that completely pointless trying to argue against completely pointless trying to argue against it. He really couldn't give a damn whether it was right or wrong, it was going to happen anyway. Was he drunk or merely taking the piss? Which ever it was, there followed a heated exchange of views.

I recite this episode not just for its amuse-ment value, but also because it tells a story, Everyone knows there is something wrong about our privatised utilities and the way they are regulated, but it is hard to articulate precisely what those things are or what to do about them. In many respects, Labour is worse at it even than the present Government, whose position, at least, has the merit of being unambiguous.

Broadly, ministers believe reform unnec-

essary. Warts and all, the system works rea-sonably well and much as it was supposed to, they say. Instead they vainly try to drive home the message that utility privatisation, far from being something to be ashamed of. is one of the great triumphs and achievements of 17 years of Tory rule, having led to enormous improvements in efficiency and standards of service across a great range of industries. The trouble for New Labour is that though they might rail against fat cat salaries, "excessive" profits, bumper divi-dends and questionable standards of service, in their hearts, most of them know this to

of how to out all these initiatives into reverse, but merely that of how to tweak and reform the system so as to answer the electorate's concerns. In this department, solntions are hard to find. For all the noise, heat and political point scoring generated by fat cat salaries, the utilities are actually only part of a much wider pattern of corporate excess in Britain today. There were some particu-larly indefensible cases of it in the early years of water and electricity privatisation, but nowadays it is no worse among the utilities

than anywhere eise.

There doesn't seem a lot of point, therefore, in attacking fat cattery in the utilities if you are not going to confront it elsewhere as well, for the effect would be only to drive the best managers out of the industry. As for the more general problem of corporate excess, there are no easy answers here either, as the impotence of Greenbury has demonstrated. The only guaranteed method, penal rates of taxation for very high earn-

ers, has been all but ruled out by Tony Blair. So Labour is stuck with its windfall profits tax as its only way of getting back at the fat cats. It would be naïve of the ntilities to believe they are going to change Labour's mind on this. Apart from anything else, this is for the time being Labour's only substantive tax proposal, the only way it has yet come up with of adding to Government revenues.

The question becomes, therefore, not one if how to put all these initiatives into to define a credible policy for the utilities.

There are ideas aplenty but none of them. when examined closely, really seem to fit the hill. Profit sharing between customers and shareholders has a superficial appeal, but when you think about it, this is actually just a complicated version of the present system of price cap regulation, whereby customers gain the benefits of efficiency gains at each periodic price review. Moreover, because it reduces the incentive for efficiency, customers might end up worse off.

A rather hetter approach might be sliding scale regulation, which matches any increase in dividends with an equal reduction in charges. Again, however, the incentive to efficiency that the present system gives is removed and, in any case, the degree of legislative, regulatory, and organ-isational reform required probably makes it not worth the candle.

The unshot is that Labour is left creeping slowly but surely back to the Tory position - that the present regulatory setup is basically all right. This is the more so because with each successive price review it becomes progressively harder to sustain the charge of profiteering. With British Gas, we have now gone full circle; here the allegation is not that regulation is too lax but that it has become unacceptably harsh. The same will eventually happen with water and by then.

electricity. The utilities may have been privatised with too lax a regulatory regime, but by the time Labour gets into power, the system may largely have corrected itself. As a consequence the utilities may no longer be much of an issue. Their frenzy of unrestrained greed will have helped Labour get into government, but they will no longer be a problem that needs to be dealt with.

That last great bastion of retail price main-I tenance, over-the-counter medicines, has fallen, or it will do if John Bridgeman. director-general of fair trading has his way. Normally I would stand full square behind Mr Bridgeman on an issue like this, but in this instance I don't. Retail price maintenance in OTC medicines supports a vital net-work of small local pharmacies throughout Britain. Mr Bridgeman's insistence that it will have little effect on them is fatuous and dangerous nonsense. By allowing himself to fall prey to Archie Norman's charm offensive. Mr Bridgeman threatens the future of hundreds of these enterprises. He might find it more convenient to satisfy his pharmacy needs at the nearest Asda, but he seems to forget that some people don't even have a car, let alone a chauffeur. What does he care? It won't be Mr Bridgeman that has to answer for this act of vandalism and wrecklessness. Someone else will be doing his job

Hampel questions boardroom pay rules

Michael Harrison

The Hampel Committee on corporate governance is examining whether rules on boardroom pay and long-term incentive plans need to be tightened up in the wake of renewed controversy over executive re-

The committee, chaired by Sir Ronnie Hampel, chairman of ICI, yesterday wrote to organisations representing business, shareholder and consumer interests, asking whether the guidelines concerning performance-related bonns schemes needed "refinement".

The letter also canvasses opinion on whether shareholders should have to vote to ap- degree of independence on prove directors' pay packages at company boards through nonannual meetings and whether executive directors. recommendation that directors' contracts be limited to one year

strikes the correct balance. This is the first time the Hampei committee has spelt out the areas it is examining since it was set up last November to review the workings of the Cadhury Code on corporate governance and recommend any changes and additions that might be necessary.

Other areas the committee has decided to concentrate on are the role of executive and non-executive directors and ways in which the relationships between owners and managers can be strengthened.

In particular, the committee asks for views on whether unitary boards consisting of roughly equal numbers of executive and non-executive directors is the most appropriate structure for UK quoted companies.

The letter also asks whether there needs to be a division of responsibility between chairman and chief executive - ooe of the key recommendations of Cadhury - or whether it is enough to prescribe a sufficient

the role of shareholders, particularly institutional investors. and whether they should exercise their ownership rights more actively by, for instance, voting on all resolutions at AGMs and concerning themselves with broader issues such as social, environmental and ethical matters.

The letter, from the committee secretary, John Healey. asks for responses by 31 De-



Ronnie Hampel: Asks whether shareholders should vote to approve directors' pay

cember. The committee has Confederation of British Inheen asked to report by the end of 1997, although it aims to issue a draft report around the middle of next year.

Christopher Haskins, the chairman of Northern Foods and a member of the Hampel committee, will address the

dustry's annual conference in Harrogate next month on corporate governance. The CBI is due to publish a report in the next fortnight strongly backing the concept of unitary boards and rejecting the two-tier boards favoured on the Continent.

The committee is also asking interested parties such as the Association of British Insurers, whether, in reviewing the existing Cadbury code and deciding what needs deleting or adding, it should differentiate betweeo companies by size and type of business.

Football chiefs to decide on Wembley's future unlikely to pose a serious threat. doubled operating profits of £7.9m during the period. City Editor The Sports Council has until.

Tom Stevenson

The future of Wembley, operator of the world-famous but shabby sports stadium, hangs in the balance this weekend with a decision on the location of a new national stadium expected to be effectively decided early next week. Shares in the com-pany closed 8.5p lower last night at 395p, ahead of the decision, but they have risen sharply in re-cent days as the market became more convinced that the stadi-

um will stay in the capital. A decision by the footballing authorities, the Premier League and Football Association, is expected to be delivered to the Sports Council oo Monday or Tuesday detailing their pre-ferred location. Wembley faces a challenge from Manchester City Council which wants to move the stadium to the North; but it is thought increasingly

the end of the year to make up its mind, although it is understood that it will probably ratify whatever decision "Football" recommends. Once it has decided on the site, detailed costings will be drawn up during the first half of next year before a formal application is made to the Sports Lottery Board for a grant. About two thirds of the cost of building the new stadium, estimated at between £130m and £170m, is expected to come from Lottery funds.

One of the factors acting in Wembley's favour is likely to be its dramatic recent return to financial health. After a successful Euro 96 football tournament, the company, which also owns greyhound tracks in America, reversed a £5.5m pre-tax loss into a £7.7m profit in the six mooths to June. The Wembley complex itself reported more than

Wembley said yesterday that, with a decision from the Sports Council not expected before the end of the year, it was too early to assess the financial implications of winning the stadium bid. Analysts have become increasingly enthusiastic about the company's prospects, however, with one broker putting a value of 520p on the shares.

If Wembley gets the next, it will have the opportunity to put in place an ambitious scheme to transform the stadium, including rotating the ground through 90 degrees to solve current problems for television coverage in bright, early evening sun, and the use of the stadium's twin towers to create a grandiose entrance.

Designed by Sir Norman Foxter, the radical plans also include a retractable roof and giant video screens to relay events inside to crowds outside.

Atlantic taps into **UK** phones

Competition for telephone customers promised to intensify yes terday with the announcement that the second company to use wireless technology to connect homes to the fixed-phone network planned to launch a service at the end of the month, writes Chris Godsmark.

Atlantic Telecom will offer phone services initially to about 20 per cent of addressess in Glasgow, including around 100,000 homes in competition with BT and cable operator international Cable Tel. The company also revealed it had raised £23.2m in a rights issue to fund the further roll-out of the system to the rest of the city by 1998.

Graham Duncan, Atlantic's chairman, said prices for the services would not be unveiled until the official launch on 30 Octo-ber, but innovations would include a variety hilling options with bundles of calls included in the price. Bundled tariffs were pioneered by Orange, the

mobile phone group.

The first fixed-link radio telephone firm, Ionica, began services in East Anglia earlier this year.

IN BRIEF

 US imports from China reached a new record in August because of a surge in imports of toys and Christmas decorations. The gap reached \$4.7bn (£2.96ho), up from \$3.8ho in July. It is expected to fall again when stores have finished stocking up for with Europe and Japan, in the main due to stronger exports of aircraft and computers, helped the total gap shrink 6.6 per cent during the month to \$10.83bn.

 Jeremy Bartholomew-White, managing director of Scandex Capital Management, gave an undertaking in the High Court yesterday to liquidate the foreign exchange trading schemes his firm operated in this country. The court action to stop him trading was brought by the Securities and Investments Board. Investors in trading schemes run by Scandex, which is based in Copenhagen, have lost more than £1m of the £1.28m they have put in.

or The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether to the proposed acquisition by National Transcommunications of the British Broadcasting Corporation's transmission network to the OFT The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether to refer the Monopolies & Mergers Commission. Submissions to the OFT should be made by 1 November.

 Magnum Power has conditionally placed 18 million shares at 20p each to raise £3.4m. The new shares will constitute 28.3 per cent of the company's enlarged ordinary share capital and the firm has applied to the Stock Exchange for the ordinary shares to be admitted for trading on the AIM.

 Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer the proposed acquisition by Scottish Tele-vision of Caledonian Publishing to the Monopolies and Mcrgers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

• On 8 October we stated that "the television rights to Paddington Bear" were being sold by Caspian. We are now informed by Paddington & Co that the worldwide TV rights to the character belong to them and the only rights being sold by Caspian are to a 56-episode pupper animation series and four separate television specials made in the 1970s by FilmFair, now a Caspian subsidiary. We are happy to have the opportunity to make the position clear.

Top City brokers to merge in £54m deal

Banking Correspondent

Gerrard & National and King & Shaxson, which have seen their traditional discount house operations virtually consigned to the history books by a change of policy at the Bank of England,

are merging in a £53.7m deal. The two companies hope that the merger will lead to more opportunities in stockbroking and fund management, and said that the deal would also release £25m of capital for investment and future acquisitions.

stockbroking business in the UK, hringing together two well known City broking firms -Gerrard Vivian Gray and Greig Middleton. The combined brokerage will trade as Greig Middleton.

Some cost savings will be made by making up to 100 staff redundant from the new Gerrard Group's money broking and back office operations. After the job cuts, the company will employ more than 900 peo-ple in its stockbroking arm.

The combined group will 420 in its derivatives broking op-have the largest private client erations and 30 on the money will achieve annualised cost market side. "It's a strategic move. The

business of Greig Middleton fits very well with the business of Gerrard Vivian Gray. They are both on same back office system and know each other very well. There's a common culture. said Mike Davies, chief executive of Gerrard & National.

The firms' discount house, or money market operations, will be merged and renamed Gerrard and King and this, in com-bination with the integration on savings of £5m.

Gerrard & National's derivatives broker GNL the largest firm on the floor of Liffe, will retain its identity and Mr Davies ruled out job losses despite slim profit margins in futures trading. The terms of the merger com-

prises 17 Gerrard & National ordinary shares for 25 King & Shaxson shares. The deal will cent shareholding.

The merger accompanied Gerrard & National's interim results, which stunned analysts by showing pre-tax profits had slumped from £12.1m to £6.3m. Shares in Gerrard & National fell to low for the year of 272p, down 27p. King & Shaxson's shares, however, hit a new high with a 20p rise to 182.5p.

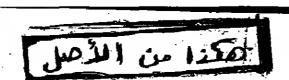
Gerrard & National said its results were hit by the introgive Gerrard & National share-holders a 62.7 per cent stake in the merged business and King & Shaxson's investors a 37.3 per duction of gilt repos, reduce volatility in foreign exchang and fixed income markets ar narrower margins on Liffe. duction of gilt repos, reduced volatility in foreign exchange and fixed income markets and



We've got more time for you

IBERIA





. . .

Blue chips managed to achieve another peak, even though many in the stock market pon-

dered the happenings of nine years ago when equities suffered

their most traumatic slump.

There had been fears that echoes of the 1987 crash would

worry investors, prompting the

market to lose its autumnal

glow. Although failing to hold best levels, Footsie ended 11

mere 2.3 above the previous

Supporting shares have, however, failed to enjoy the fun which has pushed Footsie to 10

autumn peaks. The MidCap in-dex, with 250 constituents, is

still more than 100 points from

its high, despite a 6 points gain

to 4,450.1. Its best level is

unsettled by Treasury adviser

Tim Congdon's call for a 1 per

centage point interest rate

A little takeover action helped lift shares. UniChem's

resumption of hostilities over

Lloyds Chemists and a merg-

er in the once arcane world of

discount houses helped senti-

ment. Lloyds quickly rose above the UniChem offer gain-ing 17p to 521.5p on expecta-tions Gehe, the German group,

will mount a counter strike.

son, fell 27p to 272p, with an interim profits slump doing much of the damage. K&S gained 20p to 1825p. The deal signals a stockbroking get together; K&S own Greig Middleton and G&N embrace German 1866p.

G&N embrace Gerrard Vivian

Gray. The two stockbrokers will

merge, forming what is claimed to be the leading private client

Boots, off 5.5p at 638p was unsettled by the proposed end-ing of resale price mainte-

medicines. But Asda, the

best levels. Footsie ended 11 Gerrard & National, with a points higher at 4,053.1; a £53.7m offer for King & Shar-

DATA BANK

FISE 100 4053.1+11.0 FTSE 250

4450.1 +6.0

2014:3 +4.8 SEAQ VOLUME

682m shares,

Gilts Index

40,303 bargains

FTSE 350

A sudden fizz in the shares

of JN Nichols, the soft drink

Vimto brand, has prompted

talk of possible takeover ac-

tion with one of the big brew-

regarded as the most likely

been quiet with recent profit

growth unexciting. But they

umped 12p to 224.5; there

vere suggestions of unsatis-

forecasts for this year hover-

The restructuring at Cas-

tle Mill International, the

hard pressed textile group.

has gone well and there is

talk of demand for shares

per cent stake, CMI, nn ideal shell, has said it will make

acquisitions. The shares held at 3.5p.

fied buying orders. Profits

last year were £9.6m with

ing around £10.2m.

predator. The shares had

group best known for its

ers, presumably Bass,

Shadow of 1987 hangs over blue chips' continued climb

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

cost around £80m.

Eurotherm, the electronic

equipment group hit in the summer by an unseemly boardroom upheaval, bright-

ened 28p to 600p as ABN

shares were a buy but Johnson

Matthey, the metals group, fell 11.5p to 611p with UBS cutting its profit forecasts by £9m to £110m and £12m to

TI Group shaded to 561.5p as its £189m bid for the Swedish

polymer engineer. Forsheda, ran into flak from the Hen-

derson fund management

supermarket chain which has sons, put up for sale by its ven-campaigned for price fixing to ture capitalist backers, could

There are only so many official Rolex jewellers.

How come so many of them

campaigned for price fixing to be abandoned, added 1p to

114.5p. Safeway gained 6.5p to 362.5p and Tesco 5p to 332.5p.

Pearson rebounded 20p to

696.5p on second thoughts

about its boardroom changes

and British Aerospace enjoyed an SBS Warburg lift, climbing

strength from the Accounting Standards Board's proposals

over property depreciation. Bass ended 4.5p higher at 799.5p and Whithread, which

is rumoured to be the front

runner for the unquoted

BrightReasons restaurants

chain, 8p to 726p. BrightRea-

Brewers continued to draw

23.5p to 1,163.5p.

of profits from Pilkington, the

glass group, again haunted the shares, off 3.5p to 174p. Verity, with its Far Eastern shareholder Wo Kee Hong, continuing to sell, gained a fur-

ther 1.5p to 34p. It is widely be-lieved that Wo Kee Hong,

which once had a significant

stake, has virtually completing

its sale programme.

HTV, the television group, attracted attention ahead of the

signalled industry restructuring.

gaining 8.5p to 386.5p. BSkyB moved remorselessly towards

the 700p barrier, improving

17.5p to 691p. Merrill Lynch support remained the spur for

a 13p gain this week.

Tottenham Hotspur scored
a 27.5p gain to a 520p peak and

Conrad. said to be near to com-

inquoted Premiership clubs,

Fund manager Stephen Peak demanded an improved offer Worries about the next set

but T1, with 63.6 per cent of For-

sheda under its corporate belt, said the offer was "full and fair".

Barclays, the banking

group, continued to benefit

from this week's investment meeting, gaining 10.5p to 996.5p. National Westminster bank added 13.5p to 709p on

Crédit Lyonnais Laing support

biotech group which has fallen from 418p since the spring, de-

clined a further 5p to 200p. The

company said it was not aware

of any factors which could ac-

British Energy, the priva-

tised nuclear power group, at-tracted renewed attention on

its restructuring plans and dividend yield considerations.

pressive headway after an in-different debnt. The partly

count for recent weakness.

Cortecs International, the

Braving a trip to the Yankee zoo

SPORT IN AMERICA 1

Rupert Cornwell looks at the importance of home advantage for baseball's World Series, which begins in New York tonight

echnically, its name is Yankee Stadium. Those of a nostalgic bent talk about The House That Ruth Built, in reverence of the greatest star the New York Yankees and basehall have ever produced. Those who know, however, refer to the place simply as the Bronx Zoo, wherein may be found the toughest, hrashest crowd in America from what likes to think of itself as the toughest, hrashest town in America.

Welcome to New York, where a 12-year-old kid leans into the field to steal an illegal bome run for the Yankees at a crucial juncture in the American League Championship Series this month but, instead of heing summarily ejected from the stadium, hriefly hecomes the Big Apple's higgest hero since Babe himself.

Beyond all argument, however, the stadium is baseball's La Scala, stage for the most legend-encrusted franchise in the sport. Between 1921 and 1981, the Yankees appeared 34 times in the World Series, the ultimate showcase of the sport, winning 22 of them. For decades, Yankee basehall in October was a fixture to rank with the changing of the autumn leaves, Now, after an absence of 15 years, the longest in the club's history, the Yankees are back. Shortly after 8pm local time tonight, the first game nf the 1996 Series will begin.

Nowhere has seen more postseason heroics, from the strutting hame runs of Babe Ruth and Joe Di Maggio to the savage power of Mickey Mantle. and the perfect game thrown by Don Larsen in 1956, the nnly one ever in the World Series.

Beyond their city's five boroughs, the team may be detested (not for nothing was the film prospect of them losing.

And lose they way well might. Their opponents in the Series will be the Atlanta Braves, who on Thursday night completed the most crushing comeback victory in National League Cham-pionship history. Down three games to one in the best-of-seven series with the St Louis Cardinals, the Braves swept the final three games by a combined 32-1 margin. The 15-0 blow-out which wrapped up matters on Thursday was not just the higgest win ever in the NLCS. but an embarrassment to watch. By any yardstick, the Braves This time the Yankees have

no megastars, hut a quite characteristic harmony in the dressing-room. Much of that is due to their manager, Joe Torre, one of the most beloved figures in the game, who is contesting a world championship for the first time after no less than 32 years and 4,272 games as player and successively manager for the cross-town Mets, the Braves and Cardinals.

No major leaguer in baseball history has ever waited as long. Just 12 months ago, St Louis sacked him. Since then. Torre has lost one brother, Rocco, to life in a New York hospital, But amid this family anguish, Joe has at last reached the pinnacle. Then there is the soap opera

of Darryl Strawberry. Four mnnths ago, "Straw" was a washed-up prodigy going through the motinns in Minne-sota for the St Paul Saints of the nondescript Northern League, seemingly the death throes of a massive talent sacrificed no the all too familiar altar of alcohol. women and cocaine. The Yankees gave him a last chance, and three Strawberry homers in the will be enthralled, if only at the the Orioles at their own slugging



'Joltin' Joe Di Maggio, one of the most celebrated New York Yankees of all time

The very presence of the Yankees guarantees high drama, be it Bronx braggadocio in victory, or a tabloid mauling if they lose. But in purely sporting terms, the 1996 Series could be nne of the best.

With the mid-season acquicalled Dunn Yunkees) but, over American League play-offs sition of Strawberry and the the Yankees of yesteryear in trio of John Smoltz, Greg the next week, the entire country helped sink Baltimore, beating mighty Cecil Fielder, formerly money and arrogance, it is the Maddux and Tom Glavine, has acquired power to go with the Braves.

its polished defence. New York has the best pitching in the American League and, in their outfielder Bernie Williams and rookie shortstop Derek Jeter, two of the most exciting young talents in the game. But if any National League club matches

they failed to reach the World Series. The media magnate Ted Turner is the most famous owner in the game. More pertinently, the Braves have the best pitching in basehall, built around the starting of the Detroit Tigers, the club defending world champions, and the 98mph fastballs of closer Mark Wohlers.

To win, the modern heirs of Ruth, Di Maggio and Mantle can afford no mistakes. But they have two points in their favour. One is that they have five days of rest for the tired pitchers to regain their strength (against just one for the Braves). The other is that four of the seven games will be played in front of the frenzied denizens of the

Other sports

TOMORROW Football

Rugby League Rugby Union

HEINEREN GUP Pool (1.30). Pool G. Caledonie mid Park, Perthy. Hockey

V reading of 132,07, 10e Lodgermann v standing v Barlord Tignis 22,01; Southgate v Carebrhury (2.0). Fliest Divisions: Beaston v Oxford Hawke 27.0); Shuchrafts v Oxford Men (2.30); Beaston's V Company (2.0); Shuchrafts v St. Aberis (2.0); Cropke V Tignaris (1.0); Donascare v Mannington (2.0); Cropke V Tignaris (1.0); Donascare v Mannington (2.0); Englaston v Marteston Maggines (2.30); Freibrands v Gloucesier City (1.0); Hull v Isca (2.0); Indian Gymhhana v Leines (2.30); Hull v Isca (2.0); Indian Gymhhana v Leines (2.30); Artist Gymhhana v Leines (2.30); Grebhann Abbagus (2.30); Cropker (3.0); Freibrand (3.0); Artist (3.0); Freibrand (3.0); Freib

Basketball Ice Hockey

Speedway BMER LEAGUE Coventry Pearhorough (6.30). MFERDINGE LEAGUE: Linkingow v Eastbourne 50); Linkingow v Eastbourne (4.0). Lindivid-Semie Viert, Mermonal Trophy (3.30) (at Menhal): Grand National (5.0) (at Budori).

Other sports GOLP: Toyota World Mesch Play C (at Wentworth)

Soccer secures a new home

SPORT IN AMERICA 2

On the eve of the inaugural MLS final, John Carlin reports how the nation's children finally have idols of their own

the rest of the world has been wondering with a mixture of hope, scepticism and trepidation whether soccer is ever going to take hold in the United States.

The answer is finally in. It has. Not necessarily because of the surprising success of the six-month-old professional soccer league, the climax of which will come tomorrow when Washington DC United and Los Anles Galaxy play the final game of the season to decide the winner of the Major League Soccer championship.

Not necessarily either be-cause, with less than three weeks to go to the American election, the question consuming much of Washington is not whether Bill Clinton or Bob Dole will be pres ident, but whether United will hring the MLS trophy home.

The principal, overwhelming reason why soccer is categorically in the US in stay is that it has suplanted American football, basepall and basketball as American schoolchildren's favourite pastime. Just about every child under the age of 12 is playing soccer. Go to any American town on a Saturday morning -from New York to California. from Idaho to South Carolina and you will see parks full of lit-

tle kids, boys and girls, chasing after balls like swarms of bees. The sport has even given rise

the American political lexicon: The game has even given rise Mom". Candidates of all parearnestly these

the American days about the need to secure political lexicon: "the Soccer Mom vote", by which they the Soccer Mom MLS also pro-

electoral affections of the average middle-class mother, a person whose life is increasingly dominated by the imperative to transport little Billy or little Sarah - or more likely both - to "soccer practice" during the week and soccer matches on weekends.

Two weeks ago the grey, august Wall Street Journal had a story on the front page headlined "Election game plans make Soccer Moms' a political force". The catchphrase has been around for six months at most, having originated - according to one version - in a television car commercial. The mere fact that the shrewd readers of American trends in Madison Avenue have identified soccer images as instruments of commercial success offers the most compelling evidence to date that the sport has been absorbed into the Ameri-

can culture.

A stroll one afternoon last week in a park in the leafy suburbs of Washington offered evidence of a more endearing kind. was a small park, barely the size of a full-sized soccer pitch, but there were three separate lit-tle groups of children chasing footballs. Despite the best efforts of the coaches, thirtysomething ladies in shorts who kept up a continual patter of instructions from the sidelines, they could not be persuaded to fan out and create some space for themselves. "Go, go, go, Damian," one mom cried. "No, no, Rose, the

OTHER way. You're shooting against your own team," wailed Cindy Jaffe, a mother of three,

was one of the coaches. She was preparing her team, the Grizzlies, for a match this weekend against the Tigers. When the session was over and the kids had run off to meet their waiting moms, she described how soccer had taken over the life of the average American mother.

"You spend your time trans porting children back and forth. During the week, depending on how many kids you have, you're taking them to practices. At the weekends you only have time for two things: shopping and soccer. You take them to the games, you stand on the sidelines - moms and dads - and you cheer. If your kid is a good player, and plays in a team that travels, your whole life is taken up with soccer."

One of her duties as a coach, she believes, is to encourage the children to watch MLS. "I tell them to watch the games and I've told everybody to pick out a player and follow him through the season. On Sunday, we'll all be watching.

"It's incredibly exciting that DC United's done so well in this first season. When I watch them, I get really carried away."

MLS crowd averages of over 18,000 have exceeded official expectations by 50 per cent. More to the point, as ultimately success will depend on television income, ESPN and the Spanish-language channel, Univision, have declared

lighted with their jor vote of commercial confidence. ialk to a new term in final will be carried live on ABC, one of the four major na-

tional networks. What the sibility

building a bridge for American children that will enable them to carry their devotion for soccer into adulthood. Children have been playing soccer at school for 15 years, although never in as many numbers as now. But once they reached their teens, lacking role models in the grown-up game, they transferred their allegiances to the traditional American sports.

Now, when children play in the park, they can do something they have never been able to do before but children in the rest of the world have been doing for 100 years. Run down the wing with the ball shouting out the. name of their favourite play. "Here comes John Harkes" or "Here comes Cohi Jones."

Harkes and Jones, two members of the US team, are on opposing sides tomorrow, playing for United and Galaxy respectively. The real stars on both teams are not Americans, however, Bolivia's Marco Etcheverry is the pedigree player for United. Galaxy's Eduardo Hurtado - a 6ft 3in Ecuadorean striker known as "the Tank" - is a prolific goalscorer who combines the traditional Latin American touch with the intimidating presence of a Joe Jordan.

Younger native-born players - white, black, Hispanic - are coming through and when the children in the suburban parks hegin to reach maturity, the rest of the world had better hrace itself. Come the 21st century, America could be dominating world soccer till kingdom

UOTES OF THE WEEK

Right now I feel like I'm on a rocket that's about to take off. Damon Hill, the newly crowned Formula One world champion.

It is a very sad day for English football. Players get stick all the time from the fans, but it seems you cannot have a go back these days. Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, attempts to explain why he gave a "Nazi" salute to Tottenham supporters at White Hart Lane.

I am sure it is a joke that backfired. Alan Sugar, the

English football got it right with Alan Shearer. Even though he failed to score an international goal for so long, very few questioned his place in the team. Graeme Hick, who believes he should have not been dropped from the England cricket team despite inconsistency.

TODAY Football Matches not on pools coupons: 3,0 unless stated GM VALIBHALL CONFERENCE Bath v Stalybridge Brossegrove v Dove

FA LIMBRO TROPHY First round qualifying Adversione Uni v Wintigs Bay, Alberton LR « Moor Green: Statiford Rangers v Gurzon Asimon; Droys-den s Long RMI; Name storn Borousia's V Congletion; Alberton s Ediston; Warmigton v Lancaster, Section of General, First Jeff Town v Morelson; Neinegate Town v Marchaller, Garntham v Leek, Racing Clob Warmeck & Findley; Tomnount v Green; Clob Warmeck, V Findley; Tomnount v Green; Clob Warmeck, V Findley; Tomnount v Green; Clob Warmeck, V Findley; Tomnount v VSR Rugor, Malloos v Winstent, Stockstnidge PS a Sufford Coldred, Winner v Warkhargon; Neitherheld v Fundle, Warmer, Foreborn v Weymouth; Warmer, Foreborn v Weymouth; Warmer, Foreborn v Weymouth; Warmer, Foreborn v Marchaller, Research of Russinger, Foreborn, V Robertonger, Marchaller, Barten, St. Barton, Combe, 18-land v Heynoles, Gravesterd & Northfeel v St. Geonards, Standord v Marchaller, Gravesterd & Northfeel v St. Geonards, Standord v Both, Sangelysme v Research, Version-super-March, Foreborn Town v Berhammer, Compact Stephan Util Standord vol. (2009), Standord v Waterhameted, Feber v Motessey, Martiney v Witney; Durch-ster v Waterhousle. Bornham Wood.

Servicianistics, reger v knotect, ratinos y varies; Durch Ster v Waterloodile.

ICS LEAGUE Premier Division: Boreham Wood / Jungstonan, Carshafton v Dogenham & Redinders Chertsey v Orbort Co; Hanox Borough v Stanes. Purfacet & Friedrick Skirabs v recent; Sumon Und v Dulaveth Second Division: Barkings Wooder & Elea, Bertford v Wernber, Challont v Whenhoe; Chesthurt v Hangerford: Durlong v Coder Ros & Remirod. Edgater v Ware, Egham v Utman. Hernet Hempatead v Leutrerhead, Hossan v Basdonth; Meropolari v Doler & Borsesad; Tibury v Legiton. Third Division: Reselv y East Thattack: Capton v Time, Ensom & Euell v Bromnett. Homburth v Facchael Heatth Kingbury v Nortwoodd, Leases v Wesdistane; Southal v Combeto; Warght & James Market, Sharok & Remice Berson United National Combeto; Warghou Audit of Marine: Boston Individual Carket Barg. Carretomough v Bigth; Hyde v Barnbor Barge: Paucom v Gosster; Scrennymoor v Bange: Paucom v Gosster; Scrennymoor v

somen Town v Salabuny Historing v Glouicester; Morthy v Burton Woodselv v Cheinstod, Mild-land Dhesiotz Rothwell v Besson; Shepshed Dy-namo v Dudey; Solhull Borough v Reodott. Southern Division: Dardona v Cevedon. WINSTONIEAD NENT LEAGUE First Division Chettamy Centerbury; Coule-chill v Facerbarn; Foliestone Invita v Lordowood; Herne Bay v Stode Carean; Hyrne v Constituen; Solde David V Rothester, Thomespread v Furness; Luntandp Wells v Greenwich Borough; Woolnich v Deal. LINEAT PARTICLE VIOLENCY LEAGUE First Divi-lence Burgers Hill Vesittourne Town: Heisham Horsham VMCR: Dalwood y Portfeld; Pagister V Mile Oak; Soutmark v Whitehawk. John O'Hars League Cap second round: O'zwiey Down Village v Anurde!

Down vinger v Aurori
URHLSPORT WHITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Pre-mier Divisions Bourne v Northampton Spender. Foot v SL Costy; Holbeach v St Naors: Marios Blackstone v Cogenhot; Newport Pagnet v Stamford; Potton v Boston Town; Starfold v Des-tractive. Literature Mario.

Stanford, Poptor Vision Nom. Sorrida Visionadore, Visionadore, Venegas Cup first round replay: Trabation v Cottingham. Legista Cup first round replay: Trabation v Cottingham.

SCREMPTX DIRECT LEGILIE Premier Division: Endoor v Backerst; Culne v Torregion: Benstaple v Chippennam; Charl v Braington: Odd Down v Braingham; Westhury v Elmina. Les Phillips Cup finst round: Chyst v Wellingham; Paelton v Yeovi, Lerhial v Newspham.

Innst round: Chyst v Webrigson; Paulion v Yeova, Lafridal v Neysphain.

MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division; Belpet v Asrifielt; Denaby v Ches-houghton Welfare; Hucharia o Ossett Tomir, Hat-bett Monr v Hallam, Orsett Albon v Mottry; Ponteticat v Armitionpe Welfare; Selby v Brigg; Sheffield v Armitic Thackley v Liversedge. Viktoreastic Town, Eastwood Harrey
Unities (at Notigione Athletic), Formby v Daraen,
Glossop North End - Rossandale; Harlangdon v
Hollier Old Boys: Nantench v Presont; Permit v
Saihari, Sachrersdale v Merssley, Tehra Valler
v Manne Roadt, Vauthalf GM v Natigione.

**Terreson LEAGUE Premier Division
Terreson LEAGUE Premier Division

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE Stration of Anypersity Victoria: West Midlands Po-lece 9 Perstonic Wildenind V Stuffol, PEDERATION BRISHMENT NORTHERN LEAGUE Flast Divisions: Chesater 16-Street v Stoothors; Con-ect v Whichkars; Durtent v South Shedde; Durtenn v Bedington Terriors; Essengton v Bring-hern Synthonics; Murton v Gustorrought; Sealarm Red State v FTM Newspeite; Tow Low v Choick West Auckland v Morpeth; Whitby v Shidton.

SMITRNOFF BRISH LEAGUE Promier Thirstone Colerane v Gentorun; Crusaders v Arde; Linfeld v Gentavon; Portorium v Cationnile. Plast Division: Bongar v Ballyclars; Corrick v Larne; Deutery v Omagis; Newy v Ballymens.

LEAGUE OF WALES; Aperystoyth v Bony; Coemerion v Welshpool (2,30); Castria v Carnerton; Cernets Boy v Briton Feny; Combrain v Bangar Cny; Elbu Volé v Corny; (2,30); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Cable Tel v Corny; (2,00); Rint Town v Newtown; Incr. Carlos Pottern (7,30); PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE; Bo-

Farm Everton v University College Dubbn (7-30).
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGURE Brons Rangers v Peterhead; Clechnouddin v Fortes Mechanics: Core Rangers v Budbo Theste; Kenterius: Core National v Lossiermouth; Humby v Narm County. SCOTTESH QUALIFYING CUP Third-round replays (North); Elgin v Deveronnole. (Southly: Vale of Lection v Hannok RA. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Divi-sion: Portsmouth v Tottenham (2.0). Rugby Union

Ca Munder V Wassa (At Thomand Park, Limeracy Toulous v Cardhi.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE Pool & Cermont.

Februard (Fr. v Gasgaw (4.30), Newbridge v Agent (Fr. 12.30); Sale v Newport, Pool & Bridgend v Denama Buchards; (2.30); Corell V Bouton (Fr. 7.0), Bresic v Nortonera (Fr. 7.30). Pool of Connact v Nortonera (Fr. 130), Pool of Colleges-Bordeau v London Irish (7.30); Bourgon Ifire Debw Vale (2.0), Swarpon v Golucester (2.30), COURAGE CLUBS* CHAMPHONSHIP National Leagus Twee Beddorf v Retherlant; Coventry v London Scotteria Moseley v Newcastle; Notting-term v Blackhestiv, Richmand v Rugby; Walterferd V Vistation, National Leagus Three Easter v Re-

Sheffield v Hereford; Stoke-On-Treof v Sandat; Stoutnidge v Aspotite; Wordenserv Uchfald, Ne-loraal League Four South: Adequa v Chel-tertham Barry Hill v Barking; Comberley v North Waltdam; Charlian Park v Edamid: High Woordhe v Metropolism Police; Newbury v Henrey; Plymouth

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Second Division (2.30): Abstract v Abstraction

Hockey NASTRO AZZI RRO SOUTH PA NASTRO AZZIRRO SOUTH Premiers Anchosters Ramgaries Gedenhim v Hampsted & West-minister Farcham v Boumermuth; Bare Court v Ash-forct, Medenheed v Wolding, Old Hogstonland v Turbridge Weler, Old Whatgitains v High Wycomba. Returned v Winchester; Speneer v Winnbedom Wolningham v Charleston.

WORDH Premier, Ben Rhydding v Timperley, Har-rogate v Shofsaid Bankers, Neston v Springfields: Rambarha v Chester; Southoot v Norton; Swall-

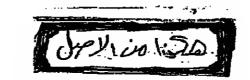
Basketball

RUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingtom Bullets v Crys ice Hockey SUPER LEAGUE:

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> Fr It's good to talk ALLIERS, BT SHOPS, COMET, CURRYS, DIXONS, JOHN LEWIS, THE LINK, OFFICE 1 AND TANDY.



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Els makes remarkable comeback

Hotton;

ANDY FARRELL reports from Wentworth

In celebrating his 27th birthday on Thursday, it can only be assumed that Ernie Els decided on an early night. It is the only explanation for what happened yesterday morning when Els found himself six down against Steve Stricker after their first circuit of the West Course.

Els could not manage a birdie until the 18th and that was only good enough for a half. "Believe it or not, I did not have a beer all day," Els said of his birthday. "I played like I had a hangover, though." The South African. winner of the last two Toyota World Match Play Championships, in fact paired with Sean Connery for a comeback against Jackie Stewart and Els Snr. It

was a good omen. In 1965, his countryman Gary Player was six down at lunch and lost the 19th against Tony Lema. but won at the 37th. In 1982. Sandy Lyle was six down against Nick Faldo and went on to win 2 and 1. Els likes a challenge. He chipped in at the third in the afternoon and was off and running. He also chipped in at the eighth and holed what he described as a "hallelujah putt" from 40 feet for a half at the

"I was beginning to wonder what was going on then," Stricker, whose great run of success from St Andrews was due to come to an end, said. It took until the 15th for Els to get square, but at the last Stricker drove into a bunker. His 6-iron hit the a row. Singh plays Tom Lehman top of the lip and with an awkward stance, he hit a 3-wood over on to the green. "One of the best shots I've ever seen,"

But Stricker could not hole but for a birdie and Els twoputted, despite the second falling in the right edge, to ex. when they called it a day. tend his run in the event to seven wins out of seven. "I didn't think I had much chance of getting back into it the way I played this morning.

I felt for Steve. He played well

all day and was all over me. I just wanted to get it into the second nine in the afternoon."

Nothing went right for me in the afternoon," Stricker said. "Everything went right for Ernie. He hit great shot after great shot."

Els faces Mark Brooks in today's semi-finals after the USPGA champion beat Colin Montgomerie by one hole to end the home interest. The European No 1 was two up af-ter 24 holes, but the American birdied seven of the last 11 holes to clinch the match. Holing from eight feet at the 35th put him one up, and doing similarly at the 36th, prevented the match going into extra holes as the rain and the night closed in equally fast.

Had it not been for the 90minute rain delay in the morning. Vijay Singh's match with Steve Jones would have been over with indecent haste. Singh won 9 and 8, not quite a record margin, hut the US Open champion received £40,000 for his 28-holes work. At the 17th in the morning, Jones hit his drive out of bounds. When Singh, who went out of bounds with his second against Phil Mickelson on Thursday, found the fairway off the tee, Jones conceded the hole. "I wanted to watch the match in front. It was much more interesting," Jones said, referring to the Brooks-Monty encounter.

In the afternoon, Jones bo-geyed the third and then Singh, in sparking form, holed from 40 feet for an eagle at the next on his way to winning four holes in today, the Open champion overcoming fellow American Mark O'Meara 6 and 5. Singh and Lehman have unfinished business. In the President's Cup in 1992, which the Americans won comfortably, they were dead-locked at the third extra hole

TOYOTA WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAMPSON-SHIP (Wentworth) Quarter-finals: E ES (SA) ht S Sticker (US) 1 hote; T Lehrman (US) ft M O'Neara (US) 2 and 5: S Jones (US) lost of Sonth EID Stand R Sensibility for the Stand EID Stand to V Singh (Fif) 9 and 8. Semi-finals draw: 0830 and 1300 °E Els (SA) v M Brooks (US);



Colin Montgomerie chips to the ninth green during his match with Mark Brooks yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

Hockey

Blewett joins Middlesex

Middlesex have signed the Australian all-rounder Greg Blewett as their overseas player for the next two seasons.

Cricket

The tall South Australian has been recruited as a replacement for the New Zealander Dion Nash, whose disastrous spell with the county last season was punctuated with injury problems which restricted him to just one Championship

Blewett, regarded as one of the outstanding prospects of Australian cricket after a memorable start to his Test career against England two years ago, would be unable to fulfill his contract next summer if he is

chosen for the Ashes tour, but at present he is well down the rankings of Australian batsmen following the emergence of Ricky Ponting, Stuart Law and Michael Bevan.

Middlesex seem unconcerned about the possible conflict of interests. "We are confident Blewett will provide a major boost to our early order batting and a useful addition to the bowling ranks as a seamer," a spokesman said yesterday. Blewett scored an unbeaten

102 on his Test debut against England at Adelaide on the 1994/95 Ashes tour and followed that up with 115 at Perth. He has added a further three centuries to his tally since that BILL COLWILL Havant and Hounslow, both for-

mer National League champions now nestling at the bottom of the Division, need to reverse the trend of recent games if they are to stand a chance of staying in the Premier Division. It will not be easy for either side. Havant, without a point, trav-

el to East Grinstead, who will be riding high as a result of their victory over the champions, Cannock, last weekend, while Hounslow travel to Cannock. Hounslow will draw some

comfort from the return of their five Welsh internationals from the World Cup preliminary tour-nament in Sardinia, but will

Problems for Havant

ready scored 11 goals in four outings, is likely to ensure that Cannock keep up their challenge for a second successive title.

Henman holds off Ferreira

Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No I, will play Germany's David Prinosil in the semi-finals of the Czech Indoor tournament in Ostrava today. He gained another superb

victory when he beat the world No 7. Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, 6-4, 6-3 in yesterday's quarter-finals while Prinosil heat the American Todd Martin 7-6 7-6.

It was the sixth time this year that Oxford-born Henman, now based in London, has reached the semi-final of an ATP Tour event and he is certain to improve his world ranking of 26 when the next list is issued on Monday.

Apart from reaching the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and the last 16 at the US Open, Henman reached the semi-finals of the Shanghai tournament in lanuary, in Rotterdam and Copenhagen in March, at Seoul in April and at Lyon in Sep-

Ferreira, ranked seventh in

the world, never looked comfortable against Henman, the more aggressive of the two for most of the match. He failed to gain a single break point while the 22-year-old Briton broke serve late in both sets.

Henman's win avenged his loss to the South African in Toronto earlier this year, and he said he had taken notes from that match on to court. "In Toronto, Ferreira was

dictating the points - serving very well and hitting forehands very well - so today I tried to be very aggressive and, when I had an opportunity, move forward." Henman said.

For Martin, defeat was especially painful as he could have gained valuable ground on Ferreira in the race for the final spot at the ATP Tour mpionship in Hanover at the end of the season.

The American is 199 points behind the South African, A semi-final place would have eaten 37 points out of that lead, while a place in the final would have halved Ferreira's ad-

Woodhall given food for thought

Richie Woodhall will have history on his side when he finally makes his long awaited attempt to win the World Boxing Council world middleweight

title in Maryland tonight. Woodhall, who won a world title eliminator in February last year, faces the American champion, Keith Holmes, in the knowledge that the previous two title holders have both been beaten in their first defences.

Julian Jackson was dethroned by Quincy Taylor, who subsequently lost the title to Holmes - who will now be making his first defence against

Woodhall. Woodhall, who has never fought abroad before as a professional, accepts that tackling Holmes, a 6ft 2in southpaw, in what is effectively the champion's own back yard will not be easy. Holmes has been beaten is victories inside the distance.

The unbeaten former European and Commonwealth champion said: "Waiting for

"The main worry has been trying to keep my weight down as they keep giving you so much food. But I weighed in at 11st 6lb in the gym, so every-

Chris Eubank ends his year-

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SPORTING DIGEST

Crowd show displeasure with stones

Cricket

Paul Strang followed his maiden Test century yesterday with four wickets to put Zimbabwe well on top on the second day of the First Test against Pakistan in Sheikhupura.

When bad light stopped play. the home side were 189 for 6 in reply to Zimbabwe's 375 after an eventful day during which spectators stoned their own side. The fans, angered by Paki-

stan's failure to dismiss the tourists in the first session, pelted fielders with stones, and although no one was hurt lunch was taken five minutes early. Zimbabwe, 240 for 6, over-

night, reached their impressive total through centuries from opener Grant Flower (110) and Strang (106 not out), who extended their partnership to 131. The tourists were bowled out

in the third over after lunch when Shahid Nazir. making his debut, howled Henry Olonga to finish with 5 for 53 off 22.4 overs. For Pakistan, Saeed Anwar

and Salim Malik, coming together at 91 for 3, added 51 for the fourth wicket before Strang broke the stand, luring Saeed out of his crease to be stumped by Andy Flower.

After removing Azam Khan, another Test newcomer, for 14, Strang claimed Salim as his fourth victim, bowling him round the legs as he tried to sweep. The off-spinner Andrew Whittal disposed of Shadsh Kabir for two, while Henry Olonga trapped Ijaz Ahmad Ibw

for nine. Second day: 4 MARABUTE -First innings

Thom Khan not cel

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Valent (in) B2 no3 w1)

Total (for 6, 50.2 event)

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Noor.

Benefiting Clongs 6.0.44.1 (in)1 w1; 2 Strong

5.2.19-0, A Whitel 1.4.2.3.86.1 P Strong

7.2.554 (is)1; 6 Whitel 5.0.19-0 (ib)1.

Liangires: 0 Octobrit (SA) and Muzer Hoyel.

American Football

Athletics

Delegates at the World Conference on Women and Sport in Lausanne, or-ganised by the International Olympic Committee and attended by more than 220 officials from 96 countries, yes erday called for an end to sex tests during the Olympic Games, complaining that only female athletes were subjected to the exeminations. Under IOC rules, all female athletes are required to under-go gender screening tests before com-peting in the Olympics.

Basebali MATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Adenta 15 St Louis O (Adenta win bast-of-seven se-ries 4-3).

Commonwealth Games Melbourne, veriue of the Olympic Games in 1956, was yesterday named as Australia's candidate to host the Commonwealth Games in 2006. Australia's second largest city beat Brishane, the 1982 venue, and Darwin for the can-

Cricket Australia have left the opening batsman Michael Stater and the leg-spinner Pe-ter Mchityre out of the team who lost last week's fest to India for their first match in the Titon Cup triangular se-nes against South Africa in Indore to-day. The all-rounder Stuart Law and the pageman Jeson Gillespie rentaire them. in the 50-overs game.

Emostrianism

Equestrianism
MONTERREY INTERNATIONAL HORSE
SHOW (Mendeo): Ford Intercontinental
Cap: 1 C.T. (H Smon, Auf deer, 35.30ser;
2 Visa Adcinus II Lensiek, Nett) cleer, 35.70;
3 Operate in Sile 11 Tops, Next) titler, 41.94.
Best Britones a ir's Otto (S Bifingarm 0.25
but in 1st round; 11. Grannusch II Whitsker) 4 tatis in 1st round. Holideny has Prize
1 Argeith Bellenut (O Becter, Ger) cleer,
34.81; 2 Calando (C Kappier, US) cleer,
36.42; 3 Villing to Tillerd (H Godignon, Fr)
cleer, 36.51.

Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Flature changes: The 3 Dec: Middleshrough viscoster City (moved from Set 14 Dec). Wed 4 Dec; Assensi viscoster (from Set 14 Dec). West Hem viscoster (from Set 14 Dec). Men 18 Dec: Derby viscoster (from Set 14 Dec). Men 18 Dec: Derby viscoster (from Set 14 Dec); Liverpool violatinghem forest (from Set 14 Dec); Liverpool violatinghem forest (from Set 14 Dec). Wed 18 Dec: Stellied Windmedig vi Menchester Utd (from Set 14 Dec). Set 20 Dec; Southernpool violatinghem forest (from Set 25 Dec) (Meaches on 17 and 18 Dec are subject to Cube not being Inched in Coar-Cole Cup fourth-round replies). TRANSFERS: Joe Tortolston (forward) H-

Wednesony in Indicated Middlesbrough to Cork City Iocan).

Cork City Iocan).

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Cup-Winners' Cup second round first legison 1 (Borwin 11) Liverpool 2 Gravier 24, Figs 54): Red Ster Beignade 1 (Blovenni 38, 34, Figs 54): Red Ster Beignade 1 (Zakawa 21): Calabarany (Iur) 4 (Halam Shifer 5, 31, Tugay 14, Hakari Iuraal 45) Paris St-Garmain 2 (Le Guen 19, Dely Valdes 20): Kimse (Fr) I (Florin 9) Alk Soina (Sael 3 (Simpson 9, Pacha 12, M Johansson 70): Glempia Lublena 12. M Johansson 70): Glempia Lublena (Sowen) O AEK Attrens 2 (Kostis 12, Australia 24): Brann Bergen (Not) 2 (Middle 26): Romanie (tu 2 (Bettstura 7, Servierz 57): Sparta Prigue 1 (Saeg 83): Bernico 1 (John Pitro 3): Devision: West Bronneich O Leicester City 3.

Jose-Maria Olazabal, 30, who has not played in competition for more than a year because of artivitis in both feet, hopes to be fit to return to the Europeen Tour early next year, he is following a daily programme of exercises and physiotherapy.

WALT DESNEY WORLD CLASSIC (Lake Business states): 63 \$ Lovery, F Licklor, 64 J Sumen, J Bullon, 68 B Fernyon, R Febr., D Stockton Irr., 6 Kraft, J McGovern, J Hasa, I, Netcon, 64 Shothers, 5 Hoch, M Habart, R Beck, K Gibson, N Lamaster, M Red, R Garnez, D Wistort, T Puture, D Monte, B Twen, J Catrer, 8 Kramn, Selectad, 68 F Afam (SA), H Sussia (Leger), 69 \$ Applety (Just), Pernyak (Swel, C Party (Jus), 71 D Western (Zm), G Wester (VZ), QUEENSLAND OPEN, (Birthame) Laceting second-round scores (Jass uniess states): 132 G Cheimen 65 67, 138 B Allier (NZ) 67 70; L Westle 69 68, 138 B Hughes 68 70; D Small (NZ) 70 68, 140 \$ Robinson 69 71; J J West (NZ), 69 72; P Lorent 69 72; D J J Host (NZ) 67 72; P Larrator 70 69; T Elliot 70 70; W Smith 68 71; D Podden 72 68.

LPSA WORLD CHAMPHONISHIP OF GOLF Smoll, S Kor) Leiching second-round scores (US schless states): 125 A Socressam (Swo) 68 69; Park Se-f 15 Kor) 68 67, 138 J Alfredses 68 69; V Stanner 67 71, 139 H Alfredses 68 69; V Stanner 67 71, 139 H Alfredses 68 69; V Stanner 67 71, 139 H Alfredses 68 69; V Stanner 67 71, 139 H Alfredses 68 69; V Stanner 67 71, 139 H Alfredses

Motorcycling
Australian Grand Prex (Eastern Creek, Sydney, tensored) Leading times (Riber first)
Honde Imin 30.4 Riber (156.3 T/Okh, 97.166 pp.); 2 M Dochan (Aus) Honde 1:90.589; 3 L Cadators (O Honde 1:30.594; 4 T Okede (Lapan) Honde 1:30.598; 5 L Capusel (Ri Versore 1:31.191; 6 K Roberts Int (US) Versore 1:31.302; 7 N Abe (Lapan) Yarmata 1:31.419; 8 C Cheta (So) Honde 1:30.595; 5 L Del (Lapan) (B) Presser (Lapan) (B) Pre

remarkable start.

(US nuless stated); 135 A Sorenstam (Swo) 36 68; Park Se-ti (S Kor) 68 67; 138 J Ged-tos 69 69; V Sonner 67 71, 139 H Affreddin (Swo) 71, 68, 146 E (Hoin 66 74; M Morras 71; K Webb (Aus) 70; L Neurhenn (Swo) 68; K Tschetter 71, 69, 141 R Jones 73, 144 A Heishmoto (Jepan) 71, 73; 2 Mucha 71, 146 B Burton 73, 73; M McGerm 73 P Bradoy 74 72, (OTEL PERRIER PARTS EVENT / Family Landing Research 158 Dec. 158 De

73 T1. 146 B Burron 73 73; M McGerm 73 73: P Bredley 74 72.
NOVOTEL PERRIER PAIRS EVENT (Gerdeaux) Lasding sepond-round scores (fourhell seef four-somes) (38 and in union states);
125 J Lomes & S Bottomidy 36 82, 119 P Weiton & R Burns 61, 63: 131, J Sparce & M
Mouland 64 57, 132 R Bottomid & D Cooper 65 67; R Dews & P Childley (Aut) 65 57; W Wesner (SA) & M Meclestre 64 68, 123 P Lewise
& S Mollister 65 69; P Broochust & R MoFerinne 65 69; P Eales & R Claydon 61, 72.
134 S Rachaster 67 66; W Riley (Aut) & C Mason 65 69; C Cower & A Lebour 67 60 74.
UAR-GRAND FRMA. TOURNAMENT (Quinta do
Pera, w Lichon, Poly: 135 F Anderson (Swe) 67 68, 133 M Hotselden [eng) 66 67, 137 8
Dadds (Eng) 66 71; V Philips (Eng) 67 70; S
Scahll NO; 70 87, 138 i Garbutt (Eng) 67 70; S
Scahll NO; 70 87, 138 i Garbutt (Eng) 67 70; S
Scahll NO; 70 87, 138 i Garbutt (Eng) 67 70; S
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Scahll NO; 70 88, 138 i Garbutt (Eng) 67 70; S
Scahll NO; 70 88, 138 i Garbutt (Eng) 67 70; S
Scahll Rocky (Den) 67 72.

Managenery

Ice Hockey
NRL Buffale 4 Pittsburgh 1; Hardord 3 NY is-lander 1; Cheege 2 Detroit 1; Vancouver 8 Dal-ler 1; St Louis 6 Trompto 1; Piorida 2 Cotorisco 1; Los Angeles 4 Boston 2. Motorcycling

do 1:33.523; 8 D Bulego (in Aprilla 1:33.543; 19: 9 E Sutter (Shel), Aprilla 1:33.644; 10 L D'Antri (Stp) Honda 1:34.048; 125.etc 1 H Acid (Legen) Honda 1:34.048; 125etc 1 H Acid (Legen) Honda 1:34.750; 3: 4 Selecto (Jepan) Aprilla 1:36.970; 4 M Tolsdonte (Japan) Aprilla 1:37.258; 6 O Reactive (Jepan) Honda 1:37.302; 6 E Alzamora (Sp) Honda 1:37.416; 7 N Uede (Japan) Honda 1:37.456; 8 G McCloy (Jela) Aprilla 1:37.504; 9 J Martinez (So) Aprilla 1:37.634; 10 T Manzalo (Japan) Honda 1:37.574,

The much-d The much-deleyed disciplinary hearing into Alex Higgins' alleged behaviour during the International Open and Embessy World Championship qualifying competitions in January has again been adjourned by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association at the player's incured.

WOMEN'S WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Petelled Linya, Meisley) Send-Breit, Australea of New Zesland 3-O; England 3 South Africa D (C. Incomen bt C. Nicth 9-2 9-8 9-5; L. Cherman bt C. Yeriter 9-0 9-3 9-5; F. Genwes ht A. Cliffon-Parks 9-7 9-5). 5th place play-offs: Germany 2 Scotland 1, S. Schone it S. Mooise 9-2 9-1 9-3; S. Baum bt C. Wadded 7-8 9-1 9-5 9-5; B. Barrol lock to W. Meisterd 2-9 10-8 6-9; Netherlands 2-First to W. Meisterd 2-9 10-8 6-9; Netherlands 2-First of 1, 13th place play-offs: Spoth 2 Leitend 1, (N. Merseu bit A. McAdde 0-9 9-3 7-9 9-6 9-0; E. Sado bt 1. Florogen 9-0 9-7 9-3; E. Sanchez lost to D. Franch 1.9 5-9; Hong Kong 2 Denmark 1, 17th place play-offs: Morekia 2 Right 1, Brazil 2

Matthew Syed, of Reading, and Lisa Lo-mas, of Luton, have retained their top places in the England rankings. Sayed has gained a lead of 79 points over Chenland's most promising teenager, Nico-la Deaton, of Chesterfield, has moved up a place to No 4, her highest posi-tion. Linds Radford, from Essex, con-sistently overlooked by the Engand selectors, retains sixth place.

(Blue group), P Rether (Aux) (Red group).

EUROPEAN WOMERNEY INDOOR TOURNAMERIT (Zardeth) Quartar-finales J Novotre (IXRep) bt J Capnati (US) 6-4 6-2; 1 Majori (Cros)

bt B Schultz-McCarriny (Neth) 6-3 7-6.

HOMAN WOMERN'S OPEN (Pakhou) Quartarmiles T Tamasugern (Theol bt L Wild (US) 6-4 64; Chen Li (Ch) bt Y Beautel (Indon) 6-2 6-2; 8
Reaut (P) bt M Erde (Uson) 6-2 4-6 7-5; Wang
Sh-bing (Tail bt N Nijeruza (Upon) 6-3 6-4

**Texaken Wangerney (US) 1 ENGER Ground STH-ting (Full) in N Nijeruse (Inpan) 6-3 6-4.
TEXACO WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Cardiff)
Quarter-Stanle: 3 Smith (GB) bt E Wagner (Ger)
2-6 6-3 7-6; A Sidot (Fr) bt D Chiadinus (Cardiff)

2-6 6-3 7-6; A Sadot (P) bt D Childrons (tz.) Regil 5-7-64 6-4; D Barachanschillons (Blela) bt C Tomens (Sp.) 6-2 5-2 ret W Probst (Ger) bt P Langious (Cz. Rep) with atth CHAMPSONS TOURNIAMENT (Johns-nestsung) Fast nound: Y Nohi (P) bt R Tarner (US) 6-4 6-2; P Herning (US) bt G Vilas (Vig 6-4 6-2; Quarter-finals: B Borg (Swe) bt Flem-ing 6-4 6-4; J Viciek (US) bt M Puncell (US) 3-6 7-5 7-5.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of games Peter Shifton remains short of looked set to play at least two games for Cambridge United, but West Ham summoned him back to Unton Park yesterday due to an injury crisis.

need to tighten their leaking defence if they are to stop the strong attacking flair of the Midland side, who will also welcome back their three Welsh players. Bob Crutchley, the former Hounslow striker who has al-

The current leaders, Old Loughtonians, at home to Surbiton, have their Scottish trio back, but are expected to contime with Howie Ford in goal at the expense of Alasdair Seaton. Bill Williams is missing with a broken thumh and absent again will be Julian Halls. Surhiton's Tom Sexton and Simon Tinkler are still on the in-

the fight has been very difficult, but now that the chance is here I know that I cannot afford to let it slip by. I have seen Holmes fight on television and 1 don't think there is anything there for me to worry about, as he is more awkward than devastating. The only real problem could be his height, as he is a bit taller than me and has a longer reach.

thing is on target.

long retirement in Cairo tonight. The 30-year-old former super-middleweight world champion fights Argentina's Luis Dionisio Barrera at 12st 6lh, in between the super and light-heavyweight limits.

Ken Jones's feature on the Ali just once in 29 fights with 19 of v Frazier rivalry will appear next



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Kiwis revel in Morley's misfortune

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD reports from Ericsson Stadium, Auckland New Zealand Great Britain

If there ever were any doubts that sport can be a cruel way to earn a living, they would have heen dispelled by the look on the face of Adrian Morley

The 19-year-old Leeds forward knows better than anyone that it was his absence in the sinbin in the last 10 minutes of a thrilling first Test here yesterday that lost the match.

Morley had only heen on the field for five minutes as a substitute hrought on to supply a fresh pair of legs when the Australian referee, Bill Harrigan, spotted him holding down Sean Hoppe in a tackle.

Harrigan had shown considerable patience towards similar transgressions from both sides, but this time he told Morley to spend the last 10 minutes elsewhere.

At that stage Great Britain were deservedly leading 12-4, having taken their chances and defended heroically.

But you can't win Test matches a man short, especially in those final minutes," said a hitterly disappointed British

coach, Phil Larder, "If we'd had 13 men out there, we would have stopped them scoring one try, let alone two. It made all the difference.

Morley himself was a disconsolate figure. "I'm devas-tated," he said, "This was the worst moment of my life. I couldn't believe he was sinbinning me, because I thought it was no worse than any other offence all game.

"I came straight off the pitch because I was so upset and I only knew what had happened from the roars."

Those roars, from the New Zealanders in a disappointing 9,000 crowd, were ones of relief and they started to gather volume almost as soon as Morley had disappeared down the

forced into a reshuffle by the demanaged to get a pass away as parture of the concussed Stuart he fell, and Goulding and Spruce, survived only a minute Radlinski moved the hall to hroken away. before it was breached for the Betts.

first time in the match, John Timu taking Gene Ngamu's pass, cutting back inside Bobbie Goulding's tackle and dissecting Kieron Cunningham and Chris Joynt on his way to the line. Kris Radlinski, moved hack to cover for Spruce's ab-sence and already responsible for one magnificent try-saving tackle, could do nothing this time, and Matthew Ridge's conversion put New Zealand

just two points in arrears.

Britain had little time to regroup before Ruben Wiki's run forced them hack once more. Ridge was stopped on the line, but Tony Iro and Grant Young kept the ball alive and Ngamu's pass again found Timu. The former All Black once

more had work to do to get to the line, but he found a route tween Cunningham and Alan Hunte and the game was snatched away, Ridge's conversion and last minute drop goal to equal New Zealand's points-scoring record merely rubbing in the harsh reality.

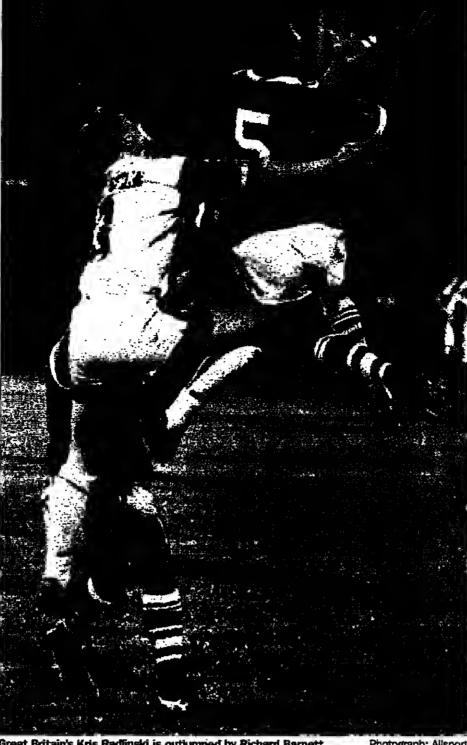
It was a bitter ending that Great Britain did not deserve. Unrated in New Zealand as they went into this game, they did everything right for 70 min-utes and showed that there is the ability in the squad to win this Test series.

They had to soak up a fierce Kiwi opening assault and they did so superbly, limiting them to just a Ridge penalty. Although Larder was reluctant to single out individuals, the efforts of Paul Broadbent and, playing on his home ground, Denis Betts always stood out as something exceptional.

It was a while before the tourists could find their attacking thrust, but when they did so the reward was virtually immediate.

Daryl Powell was stopped on the line by a crunching tackle from Steve Kearney and might have conceded a penalty for his reaction, instead, Harrigan allowed play to go on and Goulding's cross kick, productive abroad as well as at home. flew perfectly for Hunte to rise above Richard Barnett's and

nnel. An encouraging position be-track British defence, already came even better when Joynt



Great Britain's Kris Radlinski is outjumped by Richard Barnett

Photograph: Allspor

The former Wigan second-row has had his critics in Auckland, so there was perhaps an extra determination in the way he spun through two tackles to touch down and give Great Britain an eight-point lead at half-time.

When Young was penalised for a tackle on Broadbent seven minutes after the break that eight became 10 - a lead that was protected by admirable defensive work from Hunte and Powell after Barnett had

Radlinski held down Timu to very much.

concede two points but more than made up for that with his bets, Hunte; Souts Goulding 2. tackle on Ridge.

Great Britain deserved to hang on and it is hard to argue. against their contention that they would have done if not for Morley's misfortune.

It says much for the spirit in this squad, however, that to a man his team-mates had words of support and consolation for the distraught young player. It is just a fact of sporting life

that for the next few days those words will not seem to be worth Heleral, Senior (Studies), Meetre, Leesal. on Wednesday, Simon had tak- Sixth place went to Britain's and one third in his first four

Betts, Hurtis; Soals Goulding 2.
NEW ZEALAND: Ridge (Mark), capt);
Hoppe (Aucidand), Beccispore (Aucidand),
Timo (Cardarbury), Barnett (Crorulla);
Ngaset (Aucidand), Jones (Aucidand),
Yaung (South Queerelend), Bru (Aucidand),
Pongla (Carbara), Brutti (South Sydney),
Substitutes Ellis (Burdann), Marene

GREAT BRITIANC Sprace (Brackerd); Hunter (St. Heiers), Factionald (Wigon), Powell (Neighley), Sullivan (St. Heiers); Narris (Warringson), Goulding (St. Heiers); Broad-bent (Sheffield), Cappainghern (St. Heisers)

Neath have to negotiate gulf

The trip from Neath to The Stoop Memorial Ground takes less than four hours, assuming the M4 behaves itself and the team coach steers clear of punctures. The problem for the Welsh champions is that in financial terms, they would need to hire a space shuttle to

Harleoning When the two sides meet in Pool C of the Heineken European Cup today, the playing field will be about as level as the upper slopes of Snowdon.

That is no reflection on the groundstaff at The Stoop, but a comment on the harsh economic realities of a sport in its professional infancy. While the bond traders, stockbrokers and full-time rugby players of Quins will he fed, watered and properly rested when they renew their challenge for Continental glory, spare a thought for PC Chris Higgs, the Neath wing who finished his night shift at six this morning and is due back on duty at six tonight.

Never was the gulf between well-heeled clubs like Harlequins, sitting pretty astride a multi-million pound sponsorship package, and those like Neath more graphically illustrated than during the summer, when the Londoners went recruiting with their cheque book

at the ready.

Gareth Llewellyn and his brother Glyn, both Welsh international locks and the backbone of Neath's title-winning ride last season, were high on the shopping list.

Chris Hewett on today's latest round of Heineken

Cup encounters As Daryll Jones, now in his second year as coach at The Gnoll, put it: "We weren't in the race. We would have loved to have kept both of them, but there reach the planet inhabited by was no point even trying to pre-tend that they would benefit

from staying. "As an exercise in pure eco-nomics, it was completely straightforward. They were leaving to better themselves financially, and, in all probability, as rugby players too because when you look at the Quins side, it is very impressive indeed. There's no animosity at all; the Llewellyns departed with our best wishes and it's our job now to move things along without

Easier said than done. The Welshmen have been so badly hit by injuries this season that they conceded 59 points to Bridgend and almost as many to Dunvant during a calamitous build-up to the European tournament. When they travelled to Brive, the outstanding French side, last weekend they fielded a 19-yearold at stand-off and an 18-yearold in the centre. "They grew up pretty quickly, but not quite quickly enough," said Jones, re-flecting on a 34-19 defeat. But Neath closed ranks to

struggle through against Calc-donia in midweek and with Steve Williams, their international flanker, making his first Euro appearance this afternoon

alongside fellow Test forwards John Davies and Barry Williams the Liewellyn brothers may not

have it all their own way. Especially as Neath also intend to field the 6ft Sin Andrew Kembury in their second row. Kembury's injury problems have been so frequent that he might have considered taking out a mortgage on a treatment table, but he adds so much steel and power to the pack that Jones had no hesitation in naming him once his finness was confirmed.

Bridgend are poised to re-capture the Wales A stand-off. Matthew Lewis from Wasps. Lewis, who left last season, could sign a contract before today's European Conference match against Dinamo Bucharest, after the clubs agreed a transfer fee. Bath have been forced into a

midfield reshuffle for their visit to Pontypridd because of injuries to Phil de Glanville. Henry Paul and, most damagingly, the inform Jeremy Guscott, Adedayo Adebayo moves inside from the left wing to partner the inexperienced Matt Perry.

Cardiff also have personnel problems for their rematch with the champions Toulouse in France, Jonathan Davies, who popped a rib cartilage during Wednesday night's encounter with Munster, has not recovered so Lee Jarvis steps up.

One player who is expected to play tomorrow is Martin Offiah. the Great Britain rugby league wing who signed for Second Division Bedford during the summer but has been sidelined by a toe injury. He has been named for a dehut against Rotherham at Goldington Road.

Becker restores German pride

Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

reports from Monterrey, Mexico Otto Becker recorded the first

German victory at this year's Monterrey International Horse Show yesterday when he rode the 13-year-old mare Argelith Bellemuit to win the Holiday Inn Prize at the Club Hippico la Sil-la. He defeated America's Chris Kappler on Colando by L61sec. There was no British rider in

the contest and Hugo Simon, who had been in devastating form on the first two days of the meeting, also took the morning off. Having won with Apricot D Hoteree: 8 Harrigan (Australia). en a daredevil gallop with ET to Geoff Billington, who missed the contests here.

Boussac on Arc day, looks the

Lord Hantingdon sends

son) for the Group Three Preis

der Spielbanken des Landes

Nordrhein-Westfalen in Dus-

win Thursday's hig class for the Ford Intercontinental Cup. The 54-year-old Austrian, who was first to go in the jump-off for the Ford prize, demolished his opponents before they had even entered the arena. Jos Lansink of the Netherlands made a spirited attempt to catch him on Visa Aldanis, finishing 1.44sec adrift for second place, with his compatriot Jan Tops third on Operette la Silla.

The two most gifted German riders, Ludger Beerbaum and Franke Sloothaak, made mistakes in responding to Simon's challenge, finishing fourth and fifth on Sprehe Rush On and San Patrignano Weihaiwej.

jump-off when exceeding the time by a split second in the open-ing round on it's Otto. "I lost time by going wide to the triple bar,"
Billington said, referring to the 12th of the 13 fences, "I was pleased with the way Otto jumped and it may not have been such a bad thing for him to miss doing another round." Hugo Simon now has a seri-

ous dilemma as to which of his two wonderful horses. Apricot D and ET, he will ride in to-morrow's Pulsar Grand Prix. No other competitor, however. feels inclined to sympathise with the Austrian's predica-ment after watching him take two first prizes, plus one second

LONGCHAMP - tomorrow 2.45 PRIX DE LA FORET (Group 1) colts & filles 7f Penalty value £65,876

| 1 5-03102 | WINNEYS SMILE (Y Asakawa) T Clout 6 9-20 | S Guttot |
|------------|---|--------------------|
| 2 313621 | MUSTLE CAT (P Chu) S Woods (GE) 8 9-2 | W Woods |
| 3 927114 | GENERAL MONASH (M Foley) C Lafton-Parias 4 9-2 | D Dolouzza |
| 4 26-6127 | MUESQUE'S SON (Narchos Family) J Hammond 4 9-2 | C Astrusseen 1 |
| 5 031286 | PNZAR (F Salman) P Cole (G8) 4 9-2 | T Quien |
| 8 418632 | A MAGICMAN (Stall Dagobert) H Stegmett (GER) 49-2 | A Subories 1. |
| 7 11357 | BLACKWATER (K Abdullah) M Zilber 3 9-0 | L Dettori |
| 8 211-550 | HAMIRPOUR (Aga Khan) A de Royer-Dupre 3 9-0 | E Alloix |
| 9 421115 | RISING COLOURS (N Pharaon) P Demercastel 3 9-0 | A Junk 1 |
| 10 13-3351 | TAGULA (R & Eleabeth Hitchins) Balding (GB) 3 9-0 | K Derley |
| 11 701382 | SHAANOU (T Yoshida) E Lellouche 4 8-13 | O Pesiler |
| 12 11261 | ZARANNDA (Aga Kham A de Royer-Dopre 3 8-11 | |
| | -12 doctared- | |
| BETTENG FO | RECAST: 2-1 Shaerod, 9-2 Taguta, 5-1 Zarannda & Ham | irpour (coupled fo |
| | | |

betting purposes), 6-1 Micoque's Son, 7-1 Mintle Cat, 12-1 A Mingicrum, 14-1 Rist Colours, 16-1 Blackwater, Inzer, 20-1 Warring Smile, 25-1 General Monants

WOLVERHAMPTON

700 Napler Star 730 Robec Girl 8.00 Walk The Beat 8.30 Heighth Of Fame 9.00 Grovefair Dancer 9.30 People Direct

HYPERION

ZOO HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3YO 5f

| 1 | 540 | SONGSHEET (37) (D) 9 ? 0 Sweeney (7) |
|----|------|---|
| 2 | 030 | SMICHELEEN'S (16) 98 |
| 3 | 100 | QUEENS CHECK (CS) (0) 94 JH Chancelon 5 |
| 4 | 201 | NAMES SING (CO) 91 C Traggio (S) 13 |
| 5 | 320 | LADY ECLAT (288) (C) (BF) 9 1 N Day 10 |
| ö | 500 | RAMISEY HOPE (25) 90 Chancock 8 |
| 7 | | PLOMONER (23) (0) B 13 J Fortune 11 |
| 8 | 0.30 | I. DONA (16) 8 12 6 Burdent |
| 9 | කා | TYMEERA (37) (D) 8 11 Martin Dayer (5) |
| 10 | | RESIGNO (127) 8 11 A Whelen (3) 1 |
| | | NEEDYOU BYOLD (49) (CO) B 11, LOWALLA (7) |
| | | GI LA HIGH (205) (CD) 8 10 |
| | | NIGHT HARMONY (16) B 9 D Hamison |

BETTING: 3-1 Night Harmony, 4-1 Nispler Star, 5-1. Soughtnet, 6-1 Risting, 10-1 GLa High, 12-1 Queens Check, Meed You Badly, 14-1 others

730 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2YO 6F

233 BURNES MUNIOR (10) 95. 1 233 BURNES MANDOR (10) 95 __ D Numison A
2 151 COMMANDER (10) 95 __ D Numison A
4 005 SKYRES RUSE (4) 90 __ M Cassaria 10
4 005 SKYRES RUSE (4) 90 __ M Cassaria 10
5 105 INFERIA, GROBEN (20) [18 13] PRECIDE (3) 6
6 000 CUR NEWN (22) (2) 13 13 __ PRECIDE (3) 6
7 244 ROBES CRE, (14) (2) 6 7 __ D Sweeper (7) 7
9 __ O SANDIANZON (15) 8 A ANDRE COOK (5) 9
10 34 SELECT LUD (21) (6) 67 __ D Sweeper (7) 7
11 034 HE DR MSS (28) 7 11 ___ R Numison (7) 12
13 344 MORREEN (14) (7) 10 J. A Nucleatoy (7) 12
13 344 MORREEN (14) (7) 10 J. Mingre (5) 11.8

- 13 doctored SETTING: 5-2 Hit Or Miss, 6-1 Communior Jones, Just Loui, 7-1 Signs Hyer, 8-1 Bullet Missor, Rubec Gir, 10-1 Imperial Garden, 12-1 others

8.00 HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000

003 CMSSYMEOLS (20) [0 5 10 CMS and [0 3 V 002 MFOSNCTHIE (20) [67) 59 13 5 Sandra 18 8 410 DECS MINO (90) 3912 _____T Spinler 4 006 MULIASH HELLAD (12) (0) 3911 _S Contro 051 WULINEDST (24) (22) 6911 DS-2222 (7) 9 CS.1. WALKTHEEDST(7)4 (CD) (69 11. DSHOODSY(7)9

200 SHACOM, HISSEE (CD) 49 10 N Hande (2) 7

000 LEGAM, HISSEE (7)4 98 _____ 5 Windowshi 8

000 BOOD SHREET (28) (CD) 69 7 D Wagler (9, 12)8

045 ALLHOCHT THEN (22) 5 9 4 ____ J Fortune 1 11 320 YO MEN B (73) (#7) 594 _____ B Doyle 11

= 13 declared BETING: 3-1 Wast The Boat, 4-1 imposing Tano,
7-1 Carees Yangtous, Albeight Then, 8-1 Bold Aristecrat, Smooth Asset, 10-1 others

GOING: Sondard, STALLS: Inside, DRAW ADVANTAGE: High Of to Lin 42. Phresend, lett-hand, aval course.

Course is porth of the town on the A449 Wolverhampton station Inc. ADMINISTRANCE
Club \$15; Taxersalls \$6 (OAP members of Diamend Club \$4); Viewing Resourcer \$5,50 of the
ADMINISTRANCE and Inc. CAR PARKS free.
REINERSEED PIRST TIME: Smithereess
(Visited, 7,00), Red Russy (0,30). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG DESTANCE BUNNERS: Forestr (8.30) sert 181 miles by J O'Nell from Skel-ton Wood End in Cumbria.

8.30 ZEUS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 1m 4f

120 POJPOJESINGRACIJA 100 PMINISTER I 000 100EJS LAD (1.0 49 12 _____ Fortune I

900 SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 210 filles Im 100yds

1 120 GROWENER DANCER (20 D) 8 12. \$ Welmorth 97
2 800 POLY MOON (149 812 ____ | Fertimen 10
3 002 PRINCESS OF RENGS (3 812 _B Doub 11.8
4 810 SKYREN THERE (49 8 12 ___ | K Computers 7
5 05 BOURNET WILLE (15) 8 7 ____ | T Specific 8
6 000 REY DOWN TO RED (14) 8 7 ____ | E Bectimel 6
7 860 MISS SY NITTS (84) 8 7 ____ | S Bectimel 6

52 Princess Officers, 3-1 Grovefelt Deno: approg. 5-1 Skyws Tyer, 10-1 officers

9.30 HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1m 100yds

GORNG: Firm (Good to Pirm in places).

- 13 declared -- 13 declared -BETTHE: 5-2 North Arion, 3-1 Alisbury Rocket, 5-1 People Direct, 8-4 Angus McConing, 12-1 others

Tagula leads British raid on Prix de la Foret

French 2,000 Guineas third lagula heads Britain's chalde la Foret at Longchamp tomorrow. Ian Balding has since Wolfhound in 1992.

He is joined by the Sean

STRATFORD

Strong Gale 5.40 Blaze Of Oak

2.25 Zingibar 2.55 Pickens 3.25 Stately Home 4.00 Make A Stand 4.35 Garrylough 5.05 Mr

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Left-tund course with 200yd run-in.

Course is south-west of Stratford-on-Avon on A439. Stratford station a mide sway. ABMISSRON: Tatterwills 55; Course 54. CAE PARK: moide course 52, remainder free.

ELINERED FIRST THEE: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATE: Northern Optomist (3.25) won at Worcester has Santi-day. LONG DISTANCE EUNNERS: Daily Boy (4.00) & Sifty Money (5.40) has been sent 168 miles by T Easterby from Great Habton in North Yorkshire.

2.25 SHOTTERY LADY REDERS HCAP HURDLE

003100- WEBGERY (182) (D) M Barracough 7 11 10. Am Stoket 223-554 PERICE (S) (D) (EF) J Leviere B 11.3 Leviere Long 1.51222 PHR OF MCIS (D) (EF) GL More B 11.1 Links P Long 1.5245515 PERASUS BRY (S) (D) O Carblen 5 10 13 — Mos F Needham 5 500513- SHO DESD CHARGER (189)(Q) A Basso 5 10 12 South Michael Shi 218/34- SHOWE'S SOM (973) (CD) G Barrace B 10 B Lacqui Other B 000-222 2045BAR (2) (D) 1 Bodley 4 10 5 — May F Gendy (7)

Minimum weight 10st. True - Berdered - Address - Joseph (?)

Minimum weight 10st. True - Berdered - Address - Section - Bet 10st.

BETTING: 5-2 Sen Diego Charger, 3-1 Pair Of Jacks, 5-1 Pierce, Pagesus Bay, Zingher, 8-1 Wesheby, 12-1 others

(CLASS F) £3.000 added 2m 110yds

(Richard Quinn), who was third in this race last year. Shaanxi, lenge for the Group One Prix Zarannda and Miesque's Son look the pick of the home team. their first victory in this event tori) after her Group Three

success on Arc weekend. Clive Brittain runs Punish-

the Group One Gran Criterium, Italy's biggest two-year-old race, one to beat in the mile contest. in Milan tomorrow. The quin-In the Group Two Grand Prix tet are the Michael Stoute's Pur- Mongol Warrior (David Harribooked Kevin Darley to ride the du Conseil de Paris, John Gosther Outlook (Kieren Fallon), colt, who tries to give Britain den runs Annaba (Frankie Det-Kevin McAuliffe's General Song (Richard Hughes), John Dunlop's Hello (Fernando Jovine), Michael Bell's Ivan Woods-trained Mistle Cat ment (Brett Doyle) in the mile- Luis (Michael Roberts) and

One winner in Milan last time Percutant, Poliglote and Run-City (John Reid).
out, and Paul Cole's Inzar ning Flame look the dangers. The Irish filly Family Tra

seldorf tomorrow. (Wendyll Woods), a Group and-a-half event, in which Peter Chapple-Hyam's Panama ity (John Reid). Saturday in preference to the The Irish filly Family Tradi-Prix Royal-Oak. 2.55 RICHARDSONS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 110yds G) £3,000 'added Zm 1.10yds

34090' Blank Librier 712 E M Clinton (7) B

34090' CHAPE, OF BARRAS (9) 07, 8 Oct 7 11 12 Mr P Geo

S31726 SHALK (18) J Jarles 611 5 N 7 Egas (7)

OT SHITTLEDOCK (12) Mn N Hacadey 511 5 A Magnic (3) B

OTO-5 AMESTRUCK (9) 8 Proces 6 10 12 S Barrey B

OTO-5 AMESTRUCK (9) 8 Proces 6 10 12 S Barrey B

OSS-WHO DANGER A Potes 5 10 12 T Eley

OSO HACTA REVER (159) K Dates 10 12 S Fox

LOTE- INCRET'S WEDDING (179) H Kamely 5 10 12 S Fox

12 4/USS-J THEY DOR PERE (1/6) K Dates 10 12 S Ty Magnic (3) B

3 045-25 PICKERS (1/6) (1/1) N Trifer 4 10 11 S Fox

4 3 00250/ 190 8 00250 4 10 11 Plotter Genet

4 5 00250/ 100 8 00250 4 10 11 Plotter Genet

15 43 SORSKY FOUR SEQUENT VALUE PROCESS GROSS 1315 455F4-2 MESKY VERW FOLD VARIES 7 10 7 JR Neumang.
17 3F PYTCHLEY DURWI (14) 0 07465 6 10 7 Y Sintlery
18 GRIFFATS GRIL, P Noorey 4 10 6 5 5 Syan (5)
18 ETTIMO 4-1 Misty Yiew, Shattlecote, 5-1 Twice The Green, 6-1 Pickens,
8-1 Shalls, 10-1 Pytchley Durwi, Thron'y Example, 14-1 others

OF RANGER SLOAME (280) A Sensor 43 SORISKY (80) 8 GADY 4 10 11.

3.25 CORSTORPHINE & WRIGHT H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,250 added 2m If 110yds

Michaem weight: 10st. True handloop weights: Northern Optimist 9st 12th, Eastem Magic Set Sib. BETTWIS: 5-2 Namisside-General, 7-2 Stately Rome, 5-1 Newbell Prince, Morthern Chitalet, 6-1 Receptor, 10-1 Stavkel John, Eastern Magic

The St Leger winner Shantou will run in the Breeders' Cup Turf at Woodbine next 4.00 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 3f DEST. MAKE A STAND CLASS M Plos 5 11 10 1 0131 SOME A STAND 100 M 1996 5 11 10 C Manufe 2 243151 STONEY WALEY (A13) 6 13 9 Levers 6 11 9 A Magaine 3 3P100 REAGAMESQUE (USA) (X4) Philosphy 4 11 5 R Parsent 4 121224 DALLY BOY (191) T Episcrby 4 11 1 L West 5 311 BARFORD 90VERSENI (207) 1 Frontione 4 10 13 P Hide P 15422 RAFTERS (357) 1 Backley 7 10 10 T J Manufey 7 0523449 SROMORE (7) (3) W Clay 10 10 0 S Wyene

Minimum weight 10st True handloop weight Saymore Set 12st.
BETTIVE: 7-4 Make A Stand, 7-2 Stoney Valley, 9-2 Daily Boy, 5-1 Bar-ford Sovereign, 7-1 Rengamesque, 8-1 Raffass, 33-1 Saymore 4.35 AHP. WOMBOURNE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 acided 2m 5f 110yds

5.05 BARNSLEY ASSOCIATES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 0- 6 FFTY TWO (2013) L Wells 5 11 0 _______ D Sinttery (7)
ETTOF/MINDLEP M Roberts 5 11 0 _______ B Powell
05/CP4P - CARREY'S COTTOMEC (222) P Townsiey 6 11 0 ______ L Herrory
0055- COSM FILMER (1916) K Selley 6 11.0 ______ Winderfamind (3)
07-53 DEFFICILLY DECISION (21) Mis Mentra Jones 5 11 0 _____ Bytom
5/34- DRIER TEMPLE (721) Capt T Fower 8 11 0 _____ S Wymaii

- 17 declared -BETTING: 6-1 Mr Strong Gale, Coss Peals, 7-1 Listord, Bitofanthup, 8-1 Difficult Decision, Minor Kay, 10-1 others 5.40 JONES LANG WOOTTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

2.00 Side Of Hill 2.30 Tighter Budget 3.05 Adamst-ic 3.40 Over The Deel 4.10 Field Of Vision 4.40

Undulating course with run-in of two furlongs.

Enecourse is north of town off B6461. ADMISSION: Clab £10; attersalls 57 (OAPs 54, accompanied under [6s free). CAR PARK-

SLINKREED FIRST TIME: Overwhelm (2.00) and Field Of Vi-WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: NOW. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Nove.

LONG-DISTANCE HUNNERS: Engal Circus (4.40) has been sen.

207 miles by P Hist. from Hook Norton, Oxfordshire; Prontiser
Flight (4.40) sent. 152 miles by hiss L Sticial from Cotton, North
Yorkshire; Vain Prince (4.10) sen. 146 miles by N Tinkier from
Lengton, North Yorkshire; Noalos (4.10) sent. 112 miles by G M
Moore from Middelaum, North Yorkshire; Marbis Man (3.05) and
Bass Das Latine (3.40) sent. 112 miles by M Hamimond from Coverham, North Yorkshire; Physicsy Elines (3.05) and Eden Democr

(4.10) sent. 111 miles by Mrs M Reveley from Lingdole, Cleveland. 2.00 EDINBURGH AMATEUR NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds COMPO. IL FRIEND 1698) Max I Georgiation 7 11.7 July R Hote (6). 615-039 OVERMELM (245) V Trompson S 11 T. July W Trompson (3) 6 P632/12- SDE OF HEL (371) 8 Machagent 11 11 7 July 8 Profesor (7) 00-6 WALK BY THE WILD (13) O Notice 4 11 0 _ Miles 5 Casseds (7)

-7 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Side of HB, 11-4 Teacher, 8-2 Margiar, 6-1 Overrebella, 6-1

Grece And Payour, 10-1 Wee Tose, 16-1 Walk in The Wild 2.30 RANK HOVIS MILLERS BAKERY NOVICE 15 CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 1f 6134-11 TIGHTER BUDGET (12) (CD) Mrs H Sayer 9 11 12 LK Mokenny 352-333 WHEE DIAMOND (SO) May 1.17 Russel 8 10 13M. Foster V Q4300P. WOODFORD GALE [187] May 1.7 Russel 6 10 13 A Treatment

SETTING 4-5 Tighter Budget, 5-2 Calder's Grove, 5-1 White Diamond, 10-1 Klacardine Bridge, 20-1 Bright Destiny, 26-1 Woodford Gale

3.05 WEATHERBYS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) E3,000 added 2m 110yds

VICTOR LASZLO RAMA 4 10 11. - 15 declared - SETTERC: 5-2 Adametic, 9-2 Northle Man, 8-1 Trumped, 8-1 others

3.40 GREENMANTLE ALE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

Maritum religit: 10st. Two hardesp weight: Off The Bru 9st 6th. BET 1965: 6-4 Over The Beel, 5-2 Rocket Ram, 3-1 Off The Bru, 9-2 Bins De Links

4.10 EXTRORDINAIR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds - 5 declared -IMS: 2-1 Houles, 11:4 Tom Bradle, 7-2 Field Of Vision, 4-1 Eden Descar

4.40 W & T HARKIN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 6f 110yds

Ministrum weight: 10st 7ne handsch neight. Cofton Luke 9st Str. SETTRAC 6-4 Jossens, 5-2 Michighe Plant, 3-1 Cofton Luke, 7-1 Proofer Flight, 8-1 Royal Clease M A punter has unexpectedly won £343,636. Brian Greene walked into his Ladbrokes shop in Hirmingham, unaware his £1 each-way accumulator had succeeded. "Brian thought his ber had lost, which is why he hadn't been back to claim his winnings." Ladbrokes spokennan lan Wassell said.

اعكذا من الأصل

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29.04

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HI - SEGME

CESAREWITCH HANDICAP - 10-YEAR-TALE 20-1 50-1 61 152 13-2 33-1 5-1 12-1 25-1 11-1 most or time in \$1 states. Presuminos -£0.50. Second Pervolatios -£0.75 entage of winners placed fat, 2nd or 3rd in last room: 50% boginal priced witness Virlage Crop 5-1 (1992) regions priced whomer: Private Audition 50-1 (1987) The transport His trainer has won this race more then once in the pest 10 years. to Joseph Ville Coron CD: Nomadic Way (1988) and Tranget (1990)

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Royal Cellidh (Newmarket 1.45) NB: Bolshoi (Newmarket 3.35)

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Improving Timarida is Champion value

his is seven months since the Flat season on turf crept slowly into life, and almost 4,000 races have been won and lost since, but for two of the sport's most successful protagonists, two minutes at Newmarket this afternooo are suddenly all that matters. For some weeks it has seemed likely that the Champion Stakes will decide whether Henry Cecil or Saeed hin Suroor (for which, read Sheikh Mohammed) will be the champion trainer of 1996. Now the moment has arrived, and the sub-plot elevates an al-

the season. Bosra Sham or Halling, Pat Eddery or Frankie Dettori, Cecil or Mohammed? For many punters, it will be a choice of the heart rather than the head. with their betting slip the equivalent of a ballot paper. The choice of the people, no doubt, will be Cecil, thanks to longtanding affection mixed with a

The more thoughtful, how-Godolphin team, outnumbered

Both Halling and Bosra Sham go into today's race at the top of their form, though the latter's delicate feet were a cause for concern yesterday morning. Cecil believes his filly has im-

1.45 Hawksley Hill

2.20 Danetime

)ride

Greg Wood says today's big race at Newmarket is more than just a match

ishing second to Mark Of Es- not a two-horse race, with three teem in the Queen Elizabeth II other Group One winners in a Stakes at Ascot, and she al- field which is completed by legedly finished one recent gallop on the beels of the group in front of her. The first question for punters is whether this improvement will be enough to

take her past Halling, unbeaten in his last eight races on turf.

The second is whether either Newmarket. But Timarida, runner will represent value, given that the market may reflect the attention focused on their trainers. Certainly, this is

worse off in future handicaps despite the 4lb penalty he carries here for that success. He rates the prim-

to finish 21/2 lengths fourth to Tadeo in a competitive five furlongs hand-icap at Ascot last Saturday, may

turn the tables on third-placed Sir

Joey on the same terms. He holds Portelet, Lago Di Varano and Swyn-

ford Dream oo that running.

cipal danger.

whose recent record shows three Group One victories in three different countries in the space of a month, must be a for-

Even Top, heaten a short-head

First Island, it is true, should

not beat either of the market

leaders, according to the form

in the 2,000 Guineas.

4.15: HALLING, one of the best British racehorses of the Ninetics after victories in the Group One Eclipse and International Stakes at Sandown and York both this year and last, can land a fifth Group One and ass, can isnd a nun Group One victory in races open to three-year-olds and upwards. He holds First Island, who was three lengths behind him in the International at York, and may have more to fear from Boars Sham, 114 lengths second to Mark Of Estates. engths second to Mark Of Es in the Group One Queen Elizabeth II Stakes over a mile at Ascot last

time but unproven at this longer dis-4.45: EASY OPTION, three lengths fourth to Kistena in the Group One Prix de l'Abbaye over five furiongs midable opponent. As pointed out earlier this week, Glory Of Dancer is by no means the hopeless case that 40-1 quotes might imply, though as an eachway proposition he is less interesting now the field has reduced to six runners. The value this morning must be

Timarida (4.15) at around 6-1. The shape of the Cesarewitch Handicap, the day's principal hetting event, is surprisingly similar, with two horses domioating the market. The difference, of course, is that there are 24 alternatives, and neither Jiyush oor Canon Can has the form to justify early quotes of around 7-2. Both may drift oncourse, where the bookies have no ante-post liabilities, but it will be surprising if either reaches the 6-1 or so which would represent - in the case of Jiyush a fair bet.

As always, there are several runners which appear to have been laid out for today's race, with Orchestra Stall and Candle Smile the most encouraging candidates. The former is also a little short in the betting, but CANDLE SMILE (nap 3.00) is

an excellent each-way option. The Bentinck Stakes gives Branston Abby the chance to increase her career record to 24 wins, but while she will get the strong pace she needs, so too will Wildwood Flower (oext best 4.45), who has improve throughout the year and should now be ready to step up from handicaps. Those she leaves behind -23 of them, to be precise - line up for a sprint handicap at 3.35 which all wise

3.35 OLIVIER DOUBE MEMORIAL RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,500 added 5f



In Command (right) holds Musical Pursuit in a driving finish to the Dewhurst Stakes yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

In Command, but not in Classic picture

The distinguished history of the Dewhurst Stakes seems unform appears sub-standard for likely to be significantly embellished by the 1996 renewal, won yesterday by Barry Hills's In Command, writes Greg

narrowly lived up to his name, and with less than half a length what is traditionally the British season's premier juvenile event. In Command does not tack determination, however, and

he did well to hold the challenges of Musical Pursuit and Air Express after hitting the front a furlong from home. so he must be a bit special."

"The extra furlong and the cut in the ground have made all the difference," Michael Hills, his jockey, said. "He was getting a little tired close home and tosing it a hit, but he will be much stronger next season. Very few of Sadler's Wells' offspring win Group Ooe two-year-old races

Bookmakers were less con-Putra, 20-1 others.

vinced, and In Command is 20-1 for the 1997 2,000 Guineas. William Hill's 4-1 favourite for the first cotts' Classic is Bahhare. who beat In Command at Doncaster. The firm then bets: 11-Revoque, 10-1 Indiscreet, 16-1 Benny The Dip, Zamindar,

CATTERICK

2.05 Hyde Park 2.40 Saity Girl 3.15 Grate Times 3.50 Bayin 4.25 Silvretta 4.55 Marylebone 5.30 GOING: Good, STAILS: Inside

| Ar | mdel, W | est Sussex. |
|----|---------|---|
| | 2.05 | EBF PROSPECT HILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 added 2YO 5f |
| 1 | 622320 | |
| 5 | 5 | HYDE PARK (1A) Sy Mask Present 9 0 6 Duffield 13 |
| 9 | 00 | MUNGO PARK (1/4) Mrs J Remoden 9 0 |
| 1 | 4 | TURILE MOON (147) M Tomplers 9 O |
| 5 | 56 | ALVALDE (25) J Fereigner 88 8 Pauliner (5) 1 |
| 1 | | FLOOD'S HOT STUFF (11) M Charron 8 9 |
| , | 4 | HAJAT (15) H Thomson Jones 8 8 Fortune 10 |
| 3 | 40 | HEVER GOLF MOVER (38) T / Neustron 88 |
| 1 | 00 | LA DOLCE VITA (30) T D Borron 8 9 Famolog 12 |
| ٥ | | LIGHTHONG BOCT (20) M Johnston 8 9 |
| 4 | USS | MENAN CHEEN MAN D Materiand O.O. E Junet (2) D |

| | 14 | | | | | enan 8 9. | | |
|---|-------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|
| ı | | | | | A docia | | | |
| ı | BETTI | NG: 7-2 | Hyde Pa | rk, 11.2 | Hajat, | 6-1 Midye | m Queen, | Fruiten |

| | 2 | .40 | PLODMIRE APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 4 |
|-----|----|---------|--|
| | 1 | 214042 | BRENK DE FILLES (19 (D) Mis M Reveloy 497 G Paulions (8) 11 |
| | 2 | | LOST DREAM C Dreet 7 8 2 |
| | 3 | 000045 | PEJOSKIN (16) J Peerce 492 M Boird 7 |
| 1 | 4 | | PHARLY DANCER (11) (CD) W Halgs 7 8 0 L Nowton 5 |
| | 4 | | CROSS TALK (28) (C) N Tinher 4 8 12 Flynch 1 |
| 1 | 6 | | ST HONORINE (16) C Murray 4 8 11R Having 4 |
| | 7 | 1-64046 | DANA POINT (164) T D Barron 4 8 10_Victoria Applieby (7) 3 |
| | 8 | | SHOUR (22) Mrs V Acordey 3 8 5 R Cody-Bootcher (7) 10 |
| | 8 | | KASHANA (68) W Storey 4 8 4loan Wards (3) 12 V |
| 1 | 10 | 426-036 | SALTY GIRL (120) (BF) 8 Hills 3 8 4Derren Moffeit 9 |
| | 11 | 004500 | PRINCERTON POLICA (21) J Parkes 4 8 3 A Daily 13 |
| • | 12 | 700 | FINESTATETOBERN (74) F Watson 381 C Lowther (7) 6 |
| | 13 | 50 | |
| - 1 | | | |

| İ | 11. | 2 Dees Pr | int, 6-1 Cross Talk, | 12-1 Pinkerton Police | 14-1 others |
|---|-----|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| | 3 | 15 | MD FOODS NU E) £4,200 add | RSERY HANDI led 2YO 7f | CAP (CLASS |
| 1 | 1 | 100 | THE IN-LAWS (20) (D | Sir Mark Prescott 9 T | @ Defficité " |
| 1 | 1 2 | 24351 | PAPULSE (17) (D) O | Berch Dees 9 4 | . 6 Parkin (5) 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 330420 | GRATE TIMES (S) (C) | # E Weymes 91 | M Ringmer |
| ı | 4 | 14451 | MERGOR FOUR LIFE & | 6) (CD) M Tomplers 91 | & Frederic Ch 1 |
| ı | 5 | | | M Johnston 8 7 | |
| ١ | 8 | 5600 | DENTON LAD (46) JV | Watts 8 6 | N Connector 1 |
| ı | 7 | 364206 | RUM LAD (12) I Quo | 183 | I Carroll 14 |
| 1 | B | 62500 | TORONTO PLAN I Bern | 83 | K Device 1 |
| Į | 9 | | | (CD) M W Easterby 8 3 | |
| 1 | 10 | | | O Mofatt 8 2Der | |
| ı | ū | | | x18 I | |
| ı | 12 | 0050 | KING IDEO (12) Mes I | Ramazien 8 O | M Develop 1 |
| ı | 13 | | | ople-Hem 7 13R 0 | |
| ı | ũ | | | (CD) PErens 711 | |
| ł | 15 | | | 0) J Berry 7 10 | |
| ı | 16 | | | 10 | |
| 1 | | | | ectared - | |
| Į | Min | orum weid | | licac weight: Janly 7st | 8th. |
| | | | | | |

3.50 CROW HOLE BANK HANDICAP (CLASS D)

| | _ | £5,100 added 5f |
|------|------|---|
| 250 | 0000 | CROSS THE BORDER (LS) (D) O Nichols 3 10 O K Darley 14 |
| 100 | 500 | PRIDE OF BROCTON (24) (E) G Lews 3 9 12.5 Whitworth 18 |
| 500 | 0000 | EASTERN PROPHETS (17) (D) TJ Naughton 39 11.0 Urbina 18 |
| 036 | 020 | RISIDER TRADER (10) (CD) Urs J Rameden 5 9 7 J Fortune 1 |
| 665 | 014 | TUSCAN DAWN (24) (D) J Serry 6 9 6 |
| 000 | 0000 | LADY SHERRET (7) (CD) R Hollershead 5.96F Lynch (3) 12 |
| 6-46 | 150 | PRECIOUS GIFE (43) (D) O Motor 3 9 5, Damen Motott (3) 10 V |
| 301 | 320 | PALACEGATE JACK (13) (CD) C Dover 5 95 J Carroll 12 |
| 452 | 420 | SEHAPI (USA) (54) J Car 3 9 4 |
| 123 | 106 | PALACEGATE TOUCH (7) (CD) J 9erry 6 9 3 P Fessey (5) 19 8 |
| 220 | 306 | SPENDER (32) (D) P Harris T 9 3 |
| 150 | 000 | BOLLIN HARRY (13) (CD) T Easterty 4 9 3 R Havlin (3) 4 |
| 400 | 1030 | BAYIN (USA) (7) (D) M Usher 7 8 12R Street 7 |
| 212 | 300 | SWAN AT WHALLEY (2) (D) M Ware 48 11 R Perham 11 |
| 060 | 063 | CHADWELL HALL (10) (D) 5 Bowing 589 .C Temple (3) 3 8 |
| 226 | DOO | GORESSIG (17) (CD) N Tirkler 3 8 6 |
| 342 | 016 | ABLE SHERREF (127) (D) M W Easterby 48 3 A McGlone 6 8 |
| 006 | 000 | COLSTON-C (23) P Bans 4 7 13 F Egan 9 |
| 200 | 000 | SELK COTTAGE (20) (D) R Whiteker 4 7 12 |

RETURNS 6-1 Abia Sharlff, 7-1 Palacastate Touris, Lady Sharlff, 8-1 Spands

005000 BRHISTON DAME (12) (D) Mrs. J Remsdan 3 7 12. J Familing 20

| 4.25 | THEVES GILL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 5f 175yds |
|----------|---|
| 200066 | EARLY PEACE (12) M Polgloss 4 9 6 |
| 10.3231 | MORTH BEAR (66) Mrs S Smith 4 9 6 |
| BQ/0-000 | DISPOL DANCER (89) Mrs V Acontry 5 94 M Deering 11 |
| 0/60-4 | EXPANSIVE RUNNER (14) P Hams 4 9 4 G Defield 12 |
| | CHEDREN'S CHOICE (L1) (U) C Alen 5 9 3 D Denby (7) 4 |
| | IOTA (C1) (C) (D) J L Hams 7 93T Williams 8 |
| 054530 | FOREVER MOBILE (17) M Charmon 38 9 |
| 0-04006 | MAY KING MAYHEM (12) Mrs A King 389F Lynch (3) 10 |
| 221264 | LOS ALAMOS (53) C Thornton 3 88 Desig McKernen 3 |
| 302220 | NESS PRISM (10) (BF) J Duniop 3 8 6 |
| 16-23 | REPLOY (260) (BF) Lord Huneagoon 3 & 6. Ahmee Cook (5) 7 |
| 4003 | SEVRETTA (20) A Stewart 3 8 6 Carroll 5 |
| | |

| BEJ HINGE 4 | -1 SHY RUA | b-1 Hepto) | , 6-1 LOS | Visitios , 23- | 2 North Beta, |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Children's | Choice, 15- | 2 Forever I | Noble, 6-1 | lota, 10-1 | others |
| | | | | | |

| G If | | Change of Change 52-5 Lenglag Learner, 9-1 loss 711-1 GROSS | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|---|----------------|--|--|--|
| 1 2 . | 4 | 1.55 | SOUR BECK STAKES (CLASS added 2YO 5f | D) £4,75 | | | |
| 7 | 1 | 2430 | MARYLEBONE (1) J Jeny 8 11 | G Deffield | | | |
| 5 | 2 | | SWIFT (16) M Polgage 8 11 | | | | |
| 1 | 3 | | KEEN TO PLEASE (1) (D) Days Smith 8 10. | | | | |
| 4 3 | ă | | TAZIBARI (99) (D) O Molest 8 10 Dec | | | | |
| 3 | 5 | | ENCHANTICA (98) J Berry 8 6 | | | | |
| 0 V 9 | B | | ONEMORETIME (31) 8 Murcy 8 8 | | | | |
| | BET | TINE: 9-4 | Keen To Please, 11-4 Enchantica, 7-2 Mary | choos, Taziber | | | |
| 6 | | | 1 Openoretius | | | | |

| | L | 5.30 | £4,200 added 7f |
|---|-----|-----------|--|
| | 1 | 220-630 | GOOMERSHAM PARK (17) M H-Els 4 10 0, P P Marphy (5) 17 |
| | 2 | 025600 | PARLIAMENT PIECE (10) (D) J Vison 10 9 13 Dean Mickeyon 1 |
| | 3 | 652051 | MISRIGLE (USA) (17) J Gosden 3 9 13 Carroll 1 |
| | 4 | 506002 | CLASSY CHIEF (LD) R Bess 3 9 12 |
| | 5 | | COMMICHE COMPANION (7) (3) T.I Naugran 89 12 O Urbina 2 |
| | 8 | | FAME AGAIN (7) (D) Mrs 1 Ramsden 4 9 10M Wigham |
| | 7 | | SUPERPRIDE (7) (D) Mrs M Revetey 4 9 9 7 Williams 11 |
| | 8 | | UTIMOST ZEAL (22) (D) (BF) P Hams 3 & 8 A McGlone I |
| 1 | 8 | | DANCING STOLER (EA) (D) O Nichols 4 9 5 Alex Greaves : |
| | 10 | | STACKATTACK (17) P Webber 3 9 4R Perham (|
| | 11 | | ENCORE MILADY (5) (D) Files 5 9 3 Menton (5) |
| | 12 | 341300 | MY GODSON (31) (CD) J L Eyre 8 9 2 S Buckley (7) 18 (|
| | 13 | | ALLINGONS MATERIA (C) (C) (EA) TO Baren 892. Michalla Applichy (7) 42 |
| | 14 | ,104040 | CRAIGNARON (22) / 1, Eyes 3 9 1 |
| | 15 | 404002 | STATISTICIAN (4) (C) John Berry 4 9 1 |
| | 16 | | NAUGHTY PISTOL (USA) (22) P Ecans 4 9 0 |
| | 17 | 204652 | DESERT INVADER (19) (0) O Chapmon 5 9 0 J Famolog 19 |
| | 18 | 90-0300 | SHARP W SHADY (92) C Wall 3 8 13 @ Deffield : |
| | 19 | 151204 | CHILBANG BANG (207) (D) J Beny 3 8 13 |
| | 20 | | REBAL FANFARE (28) L Stable 4 8 13 - Je Humago (7) 13 8 - 20 declared - |
| - | BET | TING: 5-1 | Classy Chief, 6-1 Community Companion, 13-2 Regal Fan |

| KEMP | TON | Ç. |
|------|-----|----|

2.15 Captain Khedive 2.50 A Chef Too Far 3.20 Home Countles 3.55 General Crack 4.30 Land Afar 5.00 Call My Guest

GOING: Chase course – Good (Good To Firm in pheces); Hurdies bourse – Good to Firm (watering both courses).

Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.

Course is on A308 at Sunbury. (Boring Day only: Bus link from Richmond Underground station.) Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club \$16, Juniors (10 to 25-year-olds) \$12; Grandstand \$10; Silver Ring \$5. Accompanied children under-18 free. Parking: Members or park \$6 (Binifed and must be pre-booked), Centre car park free. GAR PARE: Members \$2: remainder, free.

RLINKERED FIRST TOKE: None, WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN BLINERERED FIRST TUBE: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG DISTANCE RUNNIERS: Home Counties (3.20) has been sent 261 miles by O Moffstt from Cartmel. Cum-bris; Royal Vacation (3.55) sent 245 miles by G Moore from Middleham, N Yorks, Clay County (2.15) & Str Peter Leby (3.55) sent 245 miles by M Hammond from Coverham, N Yorks.

2.15 FERRY BOAT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m

| 2 | .50 |) | RIVERDALE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3YO 2m |
|---|-----|---|--|
| L | | | A CHEF TOO FAR R Rowe 10 12 L Aspell (3) |
| 2 | | | CLASSIC DEFENCE His 10 12 Ochorne |
| 3 | | | PREMIER GENERATION O Adultinot 10 12 R Dunwoody |
| ı | | 5 | SOLDER BLUE (13) P Hobbs 10 12 |
| , | | | SQUIRES OCCASION (CAN) R Alexand 10 12 A P McCoy |
| 3 | | | SUNLEY SECURE Neel T Chance 10 12 |
| r | | 1 | TARRY (23) 50) A Street: 10 12 8 Bradey |
| 3 | | | TYPHOON LAD S DOW 10 12 A Dicken |
| • | | | CHST A FLY M Sateman 10 7 Lenecace |
| | | | - 9 declared - |
| | | | |

| | £7,000 added 2m |
|------------|--|
| 1103P4- | CHEFS SONG (160) (D) 5 Dan 6 11 8 |
| 110/641 | HOME COUNTIES (315) (D) O Motati 7 11 8 D 3 Motati |
| 12/105 | WARM SPELL (224) (CD) G L Moore 6 11 8 A P McCoy |
| 2341FF- | CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (205) (D) T Easterty T 11 5 R Gardity |
| 43F20-P | OUR KRIS (14) (D) N Henderson 4 10 13M A Fitzgerald V |
| | - 5 declared - |
| TIDIO: 9-4 | Home Counties, 5-2 Chief's Sung. 9-2 Combrian Chellenge. |

5-1 Warm Spell, 13-2 Our Kris.

| 3.55 CHARISMA GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m |
|--|
| 1 44U411- BAVARD DESU (162) N Gazzico 8 12 0 |
| 2 52740- SR POTER LELY (175)(0) M Harmond 8 11.4 LMr C Boomer (2) 8 |
| 3 23411-1 BERTONE (14) K Basey 7 11 4 |
| 4 1F111 GENERAL CRACK (1/9 (D) P Notols 7 11 2 A P McCoy |
| 5 5-11231 ROYAL VACATION [13] (D) G L'OOR T 10 0 |
| 6 111341 ALQARAMMAN (63) C Mars 7 10 0 C Develop |
| T 4P4633- NEVADA GOLD (204) (D) F Yazzley 10 10 0 |
| = 7 declared = |
| Mineral and the Title Title benefitting and the Principles and the State |

9st 12lb, Nevada Gold 9st 2th.

| 4 | 1.30 | THAMES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m |
|---|-----------|---|
| L | /4/0454- | ICE MARIC (168) FYErdey 9 11 0 P McLoughlin V |
| • | 723034 | LAND AFAR (188) P Wether 9 11 0 |
| 3 | 315106- | MORDANSK (216) M Madgrick 7 11 DB Feeton |
| ļ | Q/IP | WILDE MUSIC (343) C Brooks 8 11 0 G Bradley |
| j | | AMANCIO (USA) (188) G Harsood 5 10 13 R Denietody |
| , | | GREENBACK (BEL) (13) (BF) > Hobbs 5 10 13 C Lienchys |
| | | - 6 declared - |
| ě | TING: 9-4 | Amencio, 11-4 Land Afar, 7-2 Greenback, 7-1 Nordansk, |

8-1 Wilde Music, 25-1 lee Magic

5.00 PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 5f

6FOU10- HOPS AND POPS (185) (C) (D) R Alter 9 12 0. P Hunley (S) DEFER FRUS A CALL [232] J Grant 6 10 0 Aspel [3] - S declared
Minimum weight: 10st. True handkap weight: Getts A Cap 9st 58s.

BETTENE: 2-1 None Aud Pops, 5-2 Berne Boy, 11-4 Call My Guest, 9-2

RESULTS NEWMARKET

NEWMARKET

1.30: 1. SQUEAK II. Detton: 7:5 lav; 2. Flowing Fortune 7:7; 3. Kristopher 7:1, 3. rins. 8, 9. U Gosden, Newmarket). Tota: £1.40. Duai Forecast. £1.60. Computer Straight Forecast. £1.97.

2.00: 1. BANED ALASNA (D Hamsont 33-1: 2. Mise Soncorre 20:1; 3. Rummit 7:1, 22 rins. 11.4 lav Poich Romance (5th). 1, 1%, (A Stewart. Newmarket). Tota: £54.00; £10.20, £8.30, £2.20. 0F; £257.00. CSF: £524.60. Tho: £617.20 tpart won, pool of £791.13 to Newmarket 3.00 today).

2.35: 1. TARAWA (R highes) 9-2; 2. Nijo 20-1; 3. Forest Buck; 2-1 lav, 20 ras. 2%, 1. N. Catlaghan, Novemarket), Tota: £6.30; 1. (N Cataghan, Novemarket), Total: £6.30; £1.80, £2.00, £1.70, DF: £46.90, CSF; £73.34, Tric: £46.40.

E73.33, Troc £46.00, DT; £46.90, CSF; £73.33, Troc £46.00, 3.05; 1, MOONLIGHT PARADISE (I, Detto) 11.8 fav, 2, Detade 2.1; 3. Seronity 8.1. 8 ran, 2%, 11/4, Isabed bin Suroor, Newmarket), Tota: £2.40; £1.20, £1.30, DF; £1.90, CSF; £4.20, 3.40; £1.30, DF; £1.90, CSF; £6.20, 3.40; £1.80 Bahaman Bourty (4th) & Kahal Sith, Ind. Ink. 48 links, (ambourd), Totae £10.80; £1.40, £2.30, £4.70, DF; £71.50, CSF; £63.33, 4.15; £ 80.01 WOODDOG MA MARA 5.4.42

CSF; £63.33, "4.15; L BOLD WORDS (M Hills) 8-1; 2. Julietts Min 14-1; 3. Tom Thiltor 16-1: 4, Maddame Chiamery 8-1, 17 ran, T-2 fav Love Hos No Prot. 4; 2, E Durino, Newmarket, Totac £9.40; £2.10, £5.10, £8.30, £2.20, DF; £182.10, CSF; £113.50, Tracist; £1,701.17, Tho: £1,800.60 (part won, poof £1,648.51 to Newmarket 3.00 today), Non Durinas Entharball.

4,50; 1. FLAMANDS (I. Dettori) 11-4 fav; 2. Mount Pleasant 7-1; 3. Etterby Park 8-1. 8 ran. nk, 5. fl. Cumant, Nowmarket). Tobas 8 rat. fix, 5. ft. Currain, Newmarketh. Tobes £3.60; £1.70, £2.00, £2.40, DF: £8.30, CSF: £20.52; Tricosti: £124.18. Jackpott: £7,100.00 (part won, pool of £7,985.38 to Newmarket today). Placepott: £1.214.50, Quadpott: £93.50. Place 6: £311.21, Place 5: £216.83.

lat-

iary

And

CATTERICK

2.10: 1. KADEENA (T Witers): 10-1; 2. Kalimat 15-8 fav. 3. Bonnio Lassie 11-2.
11 ran. 11-4, hd. IM Johnston, Middleham). 7oter: £11.30; £2.80; £1.10, £2.60. DF: £17.60. £55: £28.83. Thu: £34.00.
2.45: 1. SARABI U Qurni 33-1; 2. Doona's Dancer 9-1; 3. Express Git 10-1; 4. Kean 7o Please 9-1. 17 ran. 9-2 fav Minullen Lad. hd. 1. U Pearte, Newmarket). 7oter £33.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90, £3.60. DF: £44.80. £53.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90, £3.60. DF: £44.80. £53.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £1.70, £4.90. £3.00; £9.20; £9 The: not wor [pool of £543.85 to Ne ket 3.00 today).

ket 3.00 today).

3.15: 1 BACKWOODS (A Garth) 12-1; 2. Upper Gallery 1-2; 3. Arcady 8-1. 3 ran. 9-4 tax Siege Penious (4th). /s. 10. W Broburne, Nessdiffe). Totte: £7.80; £1.80, £1.50. E1.50. OF: £27.90. CSF: £51.31. In-

Cast: £332.51.

3.55: 1. AL MUALLIM IA McGionei 6-4 r.
tav: 2. Erosion 3:1; 3. Janie's Boy 20-1. 8
nan. 6-4 r. fav Plass of Amour (4m). 1/4, 1/4.
U Payne, Neumaristi, Totate £2.40: £2.00.
£1.00. £3.30. DF: £6.80. CSF: £7.13. Tho: It tar; 2. Totally Yours 25-1; 3. Bascood 12-1. 15 ran. 11-4 pr tay Soldier Mak (4th). 1½, 2½. (R Philips, Sparshol). Total: £4.60; £1.80, £4.30, £3.10. DF: £80.10. CSF; £64.68, Tac

20-1. 13 ram. 100-30 co-bus Tessage (40), Askem & 40 Don, Int. 174. (8 Hals, Lamboum). Tota: £16.20; £3.00, £3.10, £4.60. DF: £41.80. CSF: £106.83. Tricast: £1,829.68. Tro.: £97.60. 5.30: 1. LADY DESSE (/ Curron 4-11 tor. 2. Fullopep 12-1: 3. Dominant Air 25-1. 8 ram. 3, 14. (8 Hals.) Tota: £1,30; £1.00, £4.50, £4.90. DF: £8.60, CSF: £6.17.

Place oc £1,309.10. Quadpot: £89.60. Place 6: £756.23. Place 5: £407.61.

1.50: 1. SOUNDS LINE FUN U F TRIEN 1.2 fav; 2. Seven Wess 8-1; 3. Chief Gale 5-2. 4 ran. 2%, 2%: (Mer H Wright). Tota: £1.40. DF: £3.50. CSF: £1.55. 2.20: 1. SOME DAY SOON IP Hollow 11-8 tot: 2. Paper Star 7-1; 3. Forgrove 11-1. 5 ran. 20; 11. (M Bradston). Tota: £2.30; £1.10, £3.10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £1.0.11. 2.55: 1. SUBLIME FEILOW (M A Fazge-ald) 2-5 fav; 2. Mead Court 9-4; 3. Bitl Of Rights 50-1. 4 ran. dst, dst. (M Henderson). Totae £1.50. DF: £1.50. CSF: £1.69. 3.25: 1. HUNTERS ROCK (C OTWyen T-4 fav; 2. Copper Coll 11-2; 3. Minter Blake 5-1. 8 ran. 2%, 13. (K Batey). Totae £2.50; £1.10. £1.10. £1.50. DF: £7.30. CSF: £1.113.

(e6). Total: 5.4.80; 1.3.70, 12.50. Dr. £11.40, CSF. £15.77. 4.35; 1. BORN TO PLEASE (A P McCoy) 3.1: 2. Comin HBI 3.1: 3. Chris's Gleo 4-1. 5 ran. 5-2 tov Ro Roi (pulled up), 8. 29, (P Hobbs). Total: £3.80; £2.20, £1.10. Dr. £5.30. CSF: £11.91.

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES PESULS

11.13.
4.00: 1. KARLOVAG (A Magure) 7-2; 2. King's Shilling 4-1; 3. Ryton Run 6-1. S ran. (0-11 fab Martha's Daugraer (4th), 7, 16, (R Lee). Toke: £4.80; £3.70, £2.90. DF: - EINDEPENDENT

ready fascinating contest into perhaps the most compelling of

NEWMARKET 3.00: CANON CAN, who stepped up on his previous form to beat Kristal's Paradise by seven lengths in a 24-mile stakes race at Pontefract just after the weights for this race were published, incurs no penalty for that success and will be 14lb worse off in future handicaps. reover, a light-raced three-year dash of insularity. Moreover, a light-raced three-year-old, he looks open to further im-provement. Jlynsh, who had Paradise Navy 21 lengths back in seventh place when beating the sub-sequent Ascot winner Flocheck by five lengths in a 2½-mile handicap at Yarmouth, will himself be 15th

ever, may prefer the Sheikh's by 200 horses to 40 hut represeoting the most significant innovation in training for many years. It is also worth noting that Godolphin's level stakes profit on its 39 winners is nearly 40 points. Cecil, for so long the punter's friend, is running a 20-

3.35: BOLSHOI, who did not get the best of runs when keeping on proved significantly since fin-

NEWMARKET 4.15 Halling (nb) 4.45 Easy Option 5.20 Warming Trends

3.00 CANON CAN (nap) 3.35 Bolshni

Light-hand (Rowies Mile) course with 1m 2f straight.

Course to south west of form on Al 304. But link from Newmerket milway station (see blanch with the station of the st

III LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; H Cecil — 60 winners from 292 runners gives a sectives ratio of 23,6% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 59,02; R Hamson — 51 winners, 601 runners, 82%, 8261,76; B Hills — 37 winners, 311 runners, 11.9%, ~\$131.20; L Camman — 35 winners, 526 runners, 11.9%, ~\$130.13.

III LEADING JOCKREN; Pat, Reddery — 122 winners, 522 rides, 22.1%, \$17.06; L Detori — 71 winners, 551 rides, 14.3%, \$143.25; W Campon — 55 winners, 496 rides, 11.1%, \$77.97; W Swinburn — 54 winners, 363 rides, 14.1%, \$38.87.

BLINKERED 104 TIME: Cool Fire (1.45); Blaze Of Song (1.45); Basy Jet (wisored, 1.45). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEND DATS; High Premium (1.45) won at least on Saturby; Branston Abby (1.46) won in Munich on Sanday.

| Ha | LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Embryonic (3.00) has been sent 232 miles by R Fisher from Bardera, I untiris: Royal Cellidh [1.45) sent 223 miles by Denys Smith from Bishop Antch- land, Co Purham, | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 13 | L45 | ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES FINAL HANDICAP (CLASS B) £40,000 added 1m | |
| ī | 110110 | CONTENT THE COST OF THE CASE I I WANT S WELLOW A STO D. TORION & | |
| 2 | 425000 | BAND ON THE RUN 285) RC) (C) (C) (C) (D) Alert B McMahou 885 | |
| 3 | 330151 | REBEL COUNTY (13) (CD) (Showting Concessionaria) A Bully 3 9 4 | |
| 4 | 601206 | SAIFAN (28) (CD) (Mrs L Brook) D Mores 7 8 1 | |
| 5 | 202500 | SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY (20) (Sendmoor Textiles Co List) T Easterby 5 8.12 | |
| 6 | 122675 | HAWKSLEY HRLL (1/9) (CD) (Hamish Alexander) Mis J Romaden 3 8 11 K Pallon 19 | |
| 7 | 110040 | CATCH THE LIGHTS (28) (D) (T A Johnsey) R Hannon 3 8 10 | |
| 8 | 110066 | MAPLE BAY (7) (D) (Floy Mentheres) A Bolley 7 8 9 D Weight (3) 24 | |
| 9 | 10521.1 | HIGH PREMIUM (7) (D) (I C Persons) R Fabry 889 | |
| 10 | 130630 | SUP JIG (28) (John Horgan) R Hannon 3 8 8 Pat Editory 9 | |
| 11 | 362320 | ROYAL CERUIDH (35) (D) (Carlon Appointments) Denys Smith 3 8 6 | |
| 12 | 500530 | DANIESOLD (7) (D) (The Disson Team) M Channon 4 8 5C Butter 7 V | |
| 13 | 36-1002 | FLYING NORTH (20) (Dr Glyn Merediet) Mis M Reveley 3 8 3 | |
| 14 | 213400 | SCARABEN (29) (CD) U Ternenti S Kettlows 883 | |
| 15 | 0.22330 | SASY JET (POL) (28) (Crown Pertnership) Lord Hurtington 4 8 3 | |
| 16 | 100015 | ARTIFUL DAME (7) (0) IS P Lanstown Ricing M Heaton-Ells 4 8 2S Drowne 11 V | |
| 37 | 150320 | BOLLIN FRANK (35) (D) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4 8 2 | |

— 27 declared —

Himmum regist: 7st 10th. True handloop weight: Cool File 7st 7th, Wornen 7st 3th, Rembo Weitzer 7st

2b, Hawkam 6st 7th, Magic Lake 6st 0th.

BETTING: 6-1 Handskey Hill, 8-1, Gladys Althorpe, 6-1 High Premiors, 12-1 Rabel Gounty, 14-1 Concert ba, 16-1 Artist Dense, Catch The Ugits, Easy Let, Selfan, Pride Of Pendle, Moyle Bay, 20 others

19:05: Stone Ridge 3 8 5 Dame Official 25-1 (R Henron) 23 ran

2.20 OWEN BROWN HOUGHTON STAKES (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £6,164 41 DAMETHIE (27) OA Tabori N Calegran 8 1.
2 BINDANG TIMOR (USA) (8) (8F) (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shehi P Cole 8 12.
2 CRIMSON TIDE (17) (Originally Wilgon) Hills 8 12.
6 CHARGOUS LIBERA (Warfer Saul) D Lodor 8 12.
6 OTHER CLIS (17) (Dule of Demonstrie) / Toter 8 12.
RUSSIAN RIALER (1. Fust) A Long 8 12.

BETTING: 2-1 Bintang Timor, 5-2 Denotine, 7-2 Crisson Tide, 9-2 Generous Libra, 10-1 Other Cital 16-1 Russian Ruler. 1906 Polynda 2 B 12 8 Doyle 2-1 (C Bratan) 5 mm

| i La | 40. H30NO | 1 2 9 Tr 9 DOME 7-1 to Durant a re- |
|------|-----------|--|
| E | 3.00 | TOTE CESAREWITCH HANDICAP (CLASS B) £50,000 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £48,770 |
| Ιī | | BETTER OFFER (20) JAIS Wendy Stated G 1574000 4 10 0 1480 |
| 1 2 | 1611/45 | CAPTAIN'S CLEST (23) (CD) (K.) BUSTUREN G REPORT OF T |
| 13 | C/3-2141 | ORCHESTRA STALL (54) (D. Sast) 1 Deck 10 0 2 Harber 19 |
| 14 | 016-320 | CAPTAIN'S CUEST (23) (CD) (K.) Buchman (Greynous 6.9). T Quinn 16 ORCHESTRA STALL (54) (D Seth) Design 4.9 1. T Quinn 16 DAUDIG (54) (S) (SF) (Neglet Hanks Partnership) M Pipé 4.9 (L. R. Haghes 19 DAUDIG (54) (S) (SF) (Neglet Hanks Partnership) M Shotle 4.9 0. Reld 25 CAMOLE SMILE (USA) (23) (Academic A 18 (S. D.) Hardson 17 |
| 5 | 213421 | CANDLE SMILE (USA) (23) (Walking A Asset 7.9.8 |
| 6 | 636134 | WOR'S PLUTTER (21) WITH PETR UESMAN 7 7 |
| 17 | 2 66304 | HORS PLITTER (21) MV IA) PERIS O ESSAND (8) PARIEU IM SIDUR 4 8 7 L. Dettord 22 8 HARBOUR (51 AND (8) (R Samet) IM SIDUR 4 8 7 L. Dettord 22 8 HARBOUR (51 AND (8) (R Samet) IM SIDUR 4 8 7 L. Dettord 22 8 L. Dettord 22 8 L. Dettord 23 8 7 (4 5 L. Dettord 24 8 7 L. Dettord 25 R. Dettord 25 R. Dettord 26 8 7 L. Dettord |
| l a | 322211 | INVISION COO TO HAMEST A MERCUTTY THE TEST OF THE TEST |
| 24 | 111111 | BALLYNARELY (28) (7 Y POTTES SENT A 8 5 |
| 3 to | 2600 | CEA VICTION (1) III II DONG AUGUS LITERIO VICTORIO VICTOR |
| Γü | 027010 | EN VICANCES (45) (Lambourn Visity Page 10 |
| ľū | 132205 | PARTYONIC (21) (Mrs D Mass) it rails and it is the state of the state |
| 1 13 | 7080 | TOTAL CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF T |
| 14 | 306450 | BLAZE ASIGNY (USA) (15) (EF) (FOLL MESON I SALES (17) |
| l is | 033050 | CE CENT SERVICE (22) (GU) (CCC) C (CONTO) C (CONTO) 27 42 1 CONTO 26 |
| 16 | 50 3411 | CANCH CAN (USA) (46) (C) (U) (Carul Prigos) (C) |
| 17 | 250221 | 77 40 P Miller 171 8 B |
| 18 | 120024 | PARTICIPATIONS MALEY (11) MJ (CALL PARTICIPATION CONT. T. 10 |
| 19 | DJ1224 | CHERRY'S LAD (NO) (NO) SIGNI INCOMPTO VICTOR AND ALL A |
| 20 | 100411 | GOOD NAME (USA) (21) (D) (United Labor Part) |
| n | 0710-0 | GOOD HAND (USA) (22) (0) (Uncle Lacks Pub) 5 ASSISTANT 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 |
| Ιä | | |
| 1 23 | 003001 | SEA PLANE (20) (A Fourner Springers) A Dates / 7 10 N Admins 20 |
| 1 24 | 400645 | WITNEY-DE-BERGERIAC (66) (Errst Houghton) J Model (3) 21 |
| 135 | 112104 | SEA PLANE (20) (II Fourmer Sariovece) A Bales 7 7 10 Nooe 4 7 10 N Admins 20 WINNEY-DE-BENSERIAC (60) (Erne Houghton J Moore 4 7 10 D Winger (3) 21 CLAIRESMAN (9) (Clare and Bens M Tomplans 4 7 10 P Doe (7) 1 |

tor LTM, trans. See tor St.

BETTING: 7-2 Canon Can. Presis, 13-2 Orchestra Stat., 9-1 her's Hatter, 10-1 Candle Smile, 11-1
BETTING: 7-2 Canon Can. Presis, 13-2 Orchestra Stat., 9-1 her's Hatter, 10-1 Candle Smile, 11-1
BETTING: 7-2 Canon Can., Presis, 13-2 Orchestra Stat., 9-1 her's Hatter, 10-1 Candle Smile, 11-1
Base Aurey, Desging, See Victor, 50-1 ethers.

1995 Okt Red 5 7 11 L Character 11-1 (Ars M Hardey) 21 ray. FORM GUIDE

Concert Care is probably the pack of the energies and should go close but JAYUSAL a taking three-year-old, as profested. I come to be Torm Jones, who rebots at the end of the season, ayush finished rearly three larging profested. I come to be stored they were second and fourth to Torne-Bound over a rule and a real at Nempolino in July and meets Debals out Townsee, by selection was become a larger and a half by Ballymanianly into larger three body in the sense of the sen

| CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 addied 5f | CLASS B) £12,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 38 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 48 12 | CLASS B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £ Wall 5f B) £1,500 (Assya Ayen) £1,500 (Assya Ayen = 23 decisied = 13-2 Belaind, 9-1 Subasel, 19-1 Mr Bergeric, 11-1 Str Josy, 12-1 Suyuford Dream, Text Man Again, 14-1 Midnight Escape, Technyrow, Zingr's Dancer, 16-1 Tulce As Shara. 20-1 patters. Man Again, 14-1 Midnight Encape, Tedburrow, Ziggy's Dan 1995: Groft Pool 4 8 7 S O Williams 9-1 U A Glove) 12 ran BOCSHOI got a strucking run when a strong-finesting fourth of 27 behind Tadeo at Acco. a week ago and may been won with a trouble-free run then. He should turn around the form with Sir Jooy, who was held a beingth in front, as third. Both can again take care of Swynford Devent, Juago DV Wareno and Portelets, who were all in the cost. Before that, Bothers trained up his fourth success of the season when detecting Starswer. as length and a half, also et Accot, where Their Man Agele, Double Quick, Midnight, Essaper, Telesdos and Bowden Rose Gesti finished behand. Mr Bergerace, eighth of 24 to Bollin Joanner at York a week ass.

4.15 DUBAI CHAMPION STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) £200,000 added 1m 2f 511123 FREST (SLAND (21) (D) (Makes Racing & Wrong 4 8 2 Mr Ham 5126 0-10111 PM LINE (REA) (80) (02) (D) (Rodophan) Steed bin Surpor 5 9 2 L Dectord 2 232 202111 TRANSIDA (35) (n) (Fit Age Nave) LOVA 4 8 13 J Mortang 1 125 12-2051 EVEN TOP (44) (C) (B Schmidt-Bodrad Mr Tomphres 3 8 11 7 Quian 3 115 142443 GLORY OF DANCER (35) (D) (Vintoria Bottaring Président) 3 8 11 0 Position 4 120 11-112 BOSRA SHAM (USA) (21) (C) (Wales Said) H Cust 3 8 8 Pas (Brity 4 133 -6 declared -1995: Spectrum 3 8 1.0 I Read 5-1, IP Chapple-hijam) 8 cm

HALLING came home uncludenged in the Auddonnie hismational. He was wholing that event for the secand year in succession and previously completed the Ediptim double when a reck, too good for those Uffinde
before that. Halling has now won his last 12 cases on tark, his only deliests since he gained has first success
in a Ropon handcop in 1994 being in the Bearders' Cup Classic on drit at Behront Park 12 months ago
and on send in the Dubes World Cup in Morch. There is no garantee that Bears Sheat will last out the
tip, as site has never succio beyond a male. Bears Shean won both his states in two such despite foot trouble which neathy caused her to mas the race, site landed the 1,000 Gaineas – lating won the Fred Daling on her return. Boars Sham man an attendute blooder when tracing delets for the fast time at the hands
of Halling's stationaries Mark IN Esteam in the Queen Establish if at Assot, going under a length and is quartier on her first run for almost the months and she finished four lengths clear of third-placed First Intend.
The Weedman figh has recovered from a recent described or lengths and a half in the last Champion States
with titlory Of Damsert that and taless her chands after a bout of cougang earlier this wide. Even Top,
short-heeded by Mark Of Esteam in the 2,000 Gainese, werent finished when down the field in the in the
Destig and he was only 8th (of she) in the Great Vollegaur. However, he should go well with a confidenceboosting victory at York last gene under his bet.

| A AE BEDFORD LODGE HUTEL BENTINCK STAKES |
|--|
| 4.45 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL BENTINGS STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed race) £17,000 added 6f |
| 1 211020 ATRAF (32) (CD) (Harnden Al Maldoum) O Modey 3 9 1 |
| 2 11616D PASSION FOR LIFE (105) (CD) (Devid Winess) G Levis 3.81 |
| 3 0.41080 AVERTI (21) (01 (0) Deer) W Mar 5 8 12 |
| 4 044206 CYRANO'S LAD (7) (C) (D) (M M Foulge) C Dwyer 78 12 |
| 5 202610 STRUGGLER (12) (C) Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) O Loder 4 8 12 |
| 8 ACCORS LUCKY LICKLY (LICKLY (21) (C) (Vintorio Balzarini) R Harmon 38 11 |
| 7 ALOCACE RELESIAN REVINAL (1)SAL (3:1) (D) (Godbiphin) Speed bin Sudor 3 8 11W 2.5 Minimum 3 |
| R 100005 SER DANE (20) (D) (Carst Gold Connections) P Hems 3 8 11 |
| 8 221-500 TUBBLEWEED RIDGE (121) (Tumblewed Parinership) 8 Meehan 3 8 11 |
| 10. 314001 BRANSTON ARBY (6) (CD) (I David Abell) M Johnston 7 8 7 |
| 11 SA101D CARRANTA (21) 600) (Lamb Lane Associates) 8 Pelling 6 8 7 |
| 12 A14-324 EASY OPTION (128) (Sociolishim Sweet bin Suror 4 8 7 |
| 13 100020 LATCHING (63) (DI /R F.Johnson Houstrion) R.Johnson Houstrion 4.8 T |
| 14. Red 7. Revenue - Province (7) ACD) (Creat Pearmen) M Fetherson-Godiey 5 8 7 |
| 13 231515 WILDWOOD FLOWER (28) (CD) (6 Howard-Spirit) R Harmon 3 8 6 |
| * - 10 declared - |
| PETTING A.1 Force Outline 9.2 Wildshood Figure, 11.2 Remains Abby, 6-1 Royale Figurine, Struf- |

RETURE: 4-1 Easy Option, 9-2 Wildwood Flower, 11-2 Branston Abby, 8-1 Royale Fig. ger, 15-2 Cananita, 9-1 Atral, 11-1 Lucky Lionel, 12-1 Passion For Life, 20-1 others

EASY OFFICIAL aboved signs of 6 return to form when fourth, at less than three lengths, to Kestera in the EASY OPTION showed signs of 6 return to form when fourth, at less than three lengths, to Visteria in the Group One Prix of Visitarye as Long-deepty - hat fast outling sinks a two-length second to Anabas at Desunklik in May Seed Sin Survoir's turner's 20 notices of with Strangglor, and shared above a langer behand him in severals at Long-turner's length service. Abby was sessing a post-war record for 8 mere when withhing for the 23rd time in genting home by a head at Manch on Sunday and might prove East Option's taughten coponent. Alors if, a triple source the state of shared eighth of the 10 Misteria at Makanon-Lating less more that un in a best forgotten because he sloped on the way to the start and wen not at his best. He was best- that at us is best only one home against Differir in the Diadems at Acod on her lesses start. Presiden For Life has finished unplaced in his last but ournels at Long-therap and Heritonig but was successful at Bedon-Badon before that his fluid victory this season and should not be far swey. Selection: EASY OPTION

| Ē | .20 | NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,00 7f | 00 added |
|----|----------|--|----------------------|
| _ | A4 44 AE | I NU COMPACCION CEN ICON (Resmoot Took) D Filmoith 6 10 U | T Cabes 15 |
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| 2 | | THE TAXABLE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY AND A PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O | |
| 3. | 0-03/456 | SASSEDO (USA) (LIS) (CD) (S FAMIN) W O'Gorton 698Emino | O'Rossan 21 |
| 4 | 110503 | SEPONEERIAL (7) (The PST Group) & Harwood 4 8 8 | A Clark 13 |
| 7. | 606160 | SERVICE (7) (INC PS) GRADA O PRINCE TO COMMUNICATION 2 O D 1 | Combon 13 |
| 8 | 11-3022 | WARRANGE TREACES (7) (D) (Hesmonds Stud) Sir Merk Prescott 3 9 8 | 32200 43 1 433- 7 |
| • | 0-03006 | WILD RICE (37) (D) (Lacy Opportunet G Wags 497 | |
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| ŭ | TOTOGO | | |
| 12 | | CLUSTER COLUMN CONTRACTOR (1990 SAME A MARK 4 M 1.4 | ة كنيكا بالهيد |
| 13 | 01-0660 | LOUGH STORE (12) (Sr Startey and Lady Comsteed) C Well 48 11 | R Hills 1 |
| 14 | (21133 | PROJUCHTONS TURNOUL (1.4) (CD) (SF) (B & V) W MUSICO 7 8 10 | R Dowle 9 |
| 15 | 331002 | SELUCIONS TO COLUMN (CO) (CO) (CO III WAS A PROSECT O COLUMN (CO) (CO III WAS A PROSECT O COLUMN (CO) (CO) (CO) (CO) (CO) (CO) (CO) (CO) | Mary (7) 4 1 |
| 18 | 500400 | (DICORDELECATIONS (7) (D) (Anthony Andrews) M Chermon 6 87 | 17 (1) Turk |
| 17 | 06324 | MEZZANOTTE (21) BP) PA Leoners L Curren 38? | |
| 18 | | Advance to the principle of the control of the cont | |
| ū | 441931 | * AJETIM (16), 65) (JUNES HEITIGES) DUTED 384 | at commit to |
| ~ | | CHARLES AND ASSAULT FOR STOCK Showed Would M Substit J Berlie 3 8 3 | 12 مطون لـــ |

The Everton manager talks to Glenn Moore about the weight of expectation at Goodison ahead of tomorrow's Merseyside derby

Royle puts his shoulder to the wheel

an inch over six foot, with shoulders to match. At the moment. Joe Royle feels he needs those

shoulders to protect his back.
Strange, you might think,
given Royle's achievements as
Evertoo manager. In less than
two years he has saved them from relegation, woo the FA Cup, and, last season, takeo them within a whisker of a

Uefa Cup place.
Yet be goes to Anfield tomorrow in need of a performance and a point if he is to silence the meo he calls "back-

As so often, it is a question of perspective. When Royle began his second Everton career - the managerial one - the club was bottom with eight points from 14 matches. The spectre

'We are still not near the finished product, but I don't think we'll have any relegation fears'

of relegation, for the first time in more than 40 years, beck-

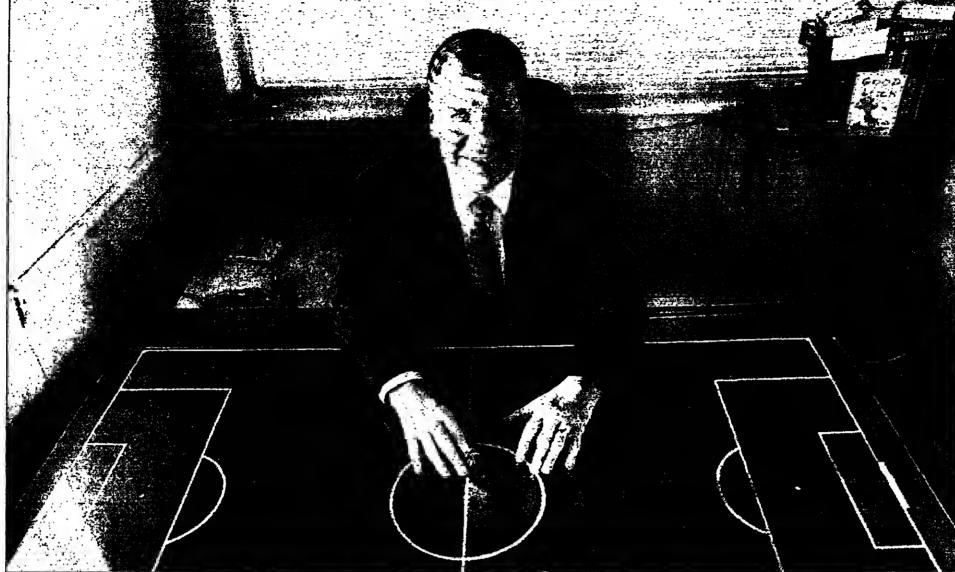
"I think it has gooe very well," he said this week. "Wheo I came here, the club were on schedule for 24 points over the season - we finished with 50. The season prior to that we only escaped relegation on the last day. So survival was the aim, winning the Cup a bonus. Finishing sixth last year was progress, so there has been

two years of progress.
"The problem now is with expectations. They have risen steeply - people oo looger wor-ry about relegation. On Satur-day [against West Ham] we did oot play well but we won, yet

people were still not happy."

Everton are one of those clubs hlessed - or cursed with a football beritage. They are the "school of science" and are expected to win stylishly." Supporters weaned on Harry Catterick's 1970 champions. and Howard Keodall's 1985 and 1987 winners, are uncon-

vinced about the Royle vintage. No one complained at first. Royle's opening game as Ever-



Covering the ground: Joe Royle sits behind Harry Catterick's distinctive desk at Everton's Bellefield training ground

ton manager, in November 1994, was another Merseyside derby. On a night of high excitement at Goodisoo Park, Everton defeated Liverpool 2-0.

That win was achieved by the men Royle christened his "dogs of war", midfield scrappers like Barry. Horne, Joe Parkinsoo and John Ebbrell, Royle came to regret the phrase. It is constantly made and achieved to restrict the phrase. stantly used, only oow it is offered as evidence of limitation. rather than spirit. The sup-porters want fluid passing movements. Who, they ask, is the Colin Harvey, the Paul Bracewell, the Cliff Britton of the modern side?

"People get carried away with ideals about total football," Royle said. "We all want to play entertaining football, but we do

have a duty to win games, that is where this club was going wrong Successful teams are aggressive. Look at [Paul] Ince and [Roy] Keane, they were part of Manchester United's best team in receot years. You have

to be strong.
"It is a fine balance. You want to eotertain, and you do that with entertaining players like Andrei Kanchelskis and Duncan Ferguson. But sometimes you are only as eotertaining as your best players. We are still not near the finished product, but I don't think we will have any relegation worries."

The ooe potential beir to Everton's passing tradition, the gifted but lightweight Tooy Grant, has struggled to establish himself. "He is a great talent," Royle said, "an oldfashioned link player who can go past people and score goals. But he has taken time to get going. He may need more time, he may oeed a run in the first team, hut be bas to justify his place."
Royle has tried to integrate

Grant. After a vibrant start -Newcastle beaten, Manchester United beld at Old Trafford he drafted Grant in. He played fairly well in a draw at Spurs, but theo results went awry. Royle soon reverted to the tried and trusted but, before results im-proved, Everton had lost in the Coca-Cola Cup at York and the pressure was building. "York was a disaster, I would

not argue with that. But then the whole media machine gets into action. There is no other busi-

ness like this where perceptions can change overnight. We had a great start. Six games later we had not won and I had become an under-pressure manager.

I don't find criticism difficult to deal with, but I find it hard to understand. There are very few journalists now, just a lot of quote collectors and backstabbers; hitmen waiting for something to happen. I see the knives are out for Glenn Hod-

die already."

Royle bas fallen ont with some of the local press. They argue they are merely articulating. supporters' views, he feels neg-ative coverage does not help a

of Norwich a couple of years ago. in. We have young players com-Every game becomes vital, it is ing through, but it does oot change overnight - clubs do not want to sell their best players built up to such extremes by local and national media.

"The last thing you want is to tience all the time, but it is not even two years yet. Avoiding relegation that season was the best thing I have done as a manager. We now find ourselves after a "crisis" - four points off a European place and I think

we'll improve oo that.
"It took Manchester United seven years to win the title aiter Alex Ferguson arrived and I inherited players who were used to a relegation fight rather team when it is suffering from low confidence.

"When you get in a tailspin it is very hard to get out of it—think I came here and five or six come

Michael Branch - from the teiraces. He is described, in Ian Ross and Gordon Smailes' Everion - The Complete Record, as being widely acknowledged as Everton's fluest post-war centre-forward. More of a Ferguson than a Branch, he scored 119 goals in 275 games, 23 of them in the 1970 championship season.

coungest debutant, having grad a uated - like the current start

Now 47, he carries a grim legacy of his efforts with Everton, England, Manchester City, Bristol City and Norwich. He has arthritis in his bips and knees and Willie Donachie does the physical work on the training ground.

He remains a Goodison hero. On Saturday, after the laboured win over West Ham, a video was showing in the Winslow Arms

'I don't find criticism difficult to deal with, but I do find it very hard to understand

opposite Goudison. As I entered, Royle was shown scoring a goal. He describes his return to Evertoo, after a dozen years as manager of Oldham, as "a

The seasoo Royle began playing. Evertun won the FA Cup. It was four more years before Catterick tanded the title. Kendall, having taken over a struggling team, occided four years to huild his champions, during which crowds plummeted and supporters called for his dismissal. The board were rewarded for backing him just as Manchester Uoited's have been for standing by Alex Ferguson.

It is thus premature to judge Royle, even if life in the Preniership demands instant dicts. Liverpool's current success, and their beautiful football, does not make it any easier. "It does not make a difference to me personally, but it does to supporters." he said. The fans feel it."

Victory tomorrow would lighten their mood. Everton have injury problems, but Royle is confideot. "Since my first game, we have no fear of the occasion."

Hibernian fail in attempt to lure McLeish

Scottish football

Hihernian yesterday dropped their interest in the Motherwell manager, Alex McLeish, just 24 hours before the two clubs meet io the Bell's Scottish League, after repeated attempts to talk with him all failed.

The Easter Road club wanted McLeish to succeed Alex Miller, who resigned three weeks ago, but were denied permissioo to approach him. "It is no secret that we would

经到

TODAY

sions with the Motherwell manger, Alex McLeish," the Hibernian chairman, Douglas

We asked the Motherwell board for permissioo tu talk to him as be is still under contract. "We had hoped that, oo reflection, the situation might

Nationwide Football League

nstry v West Brommeth ...
dersfield v Southend
ach v Portsmouth
achester City v Norwich
nam v Reading
e v Sheffield Utd......

Second Division

21. Burnley v Notts County 22. Bury v Watford 23. Charge of the County

who led the team to victory. against Rangers last Saturday, will be in charge for today's game against Motherwell, a match which will surely test the emotions of 37-year-old McLeish.

Dunfermline, who entertain Dundee United, are without the suspended Marc Millar in their final match before the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against

Third Division

38 Hulf v Pulhar

Hereford v Levton Orient

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

Scottish First Division

milne v Dundee Utd

change and permission would Rangers oext Tuesday. Celtic will plunge Stewart have been granted, but this has not been the case. Now it is time Kerr into tomorrow's match against Hearts at Tynecastle, but manager Tommy Burns insists In the meantime, Jocky Scott,

MAJOR WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

the 21-year-old goalkeeper in a match being screened live by Scottish Television. Kerr replaces the suspended Gordon

Andreas Thom is almost certainly out for Celtic, who also have Tosh McKinlay banned and Jorge Cadete ooi yet ready to return. Hearts could play former the Freoch international Stephane Paille in the last match of his trial at Tynecastle, although Darren Beckford is

Scottish Second Division

Nationwide Football League

are v Queen's Park Rangers (1.0)

Scottish Third Division

TOMORROW

First Division

Coventry Last season: 1-1

Last five League matches: Arsansi DWWWW; Coventry LWLDD Fit-again Dutch striker Bergkamp starts on the bench, while French utility player Garde could also be among the substitutes as the Gunners chase a fifth successive win. Coventry look like being without Burrows (groin muscle) and he will be replaced by Shaw or Williams. Striker Dublin is expected to keep his place after coming off the bench to score his side's last-minute equaliser against Southampton.

N Forest v Derby

Last five League matches: Noting Forest DLLDL; Derby WWDLL campbell needs to prove his stiarp-ness for Forest. Guinan has been called up, but Lee is more likely to partner Seunders up friont. Blatter-wick is expected to play. Derby's Dutch striker Willems steps in for Sur-kter (archie). Derby's internatived (de-kter (archie). Derby's internatived (deridge (ankle). Denish international de-fender Laursen is fit and centre-back

fates comes into the sound.

Yugoslav striker Milosovic is to be rest-ed after scoring only three times in eight games this term, he will make way for Johnson. Defender Southgate is expected to return after injury, while goalteeper Bosnich is expected to play. eeds captain Rush has recovered from hamstring trouble, lining up alongside Hateley, playing the last match of his loan spell. Left-back Dorigo is unlikely to start, but Palmer is back after a one-match ban.

Last season: 3-0

Last five League matches VIIIa DDDLL; Leads LLLLW

Sheff Wed V Blackburn

Last five League matches: Sheft Wed LLDLL; Blackburn LLDDL dnesday's Whittingham looks Wednesday's Whittingham looks likely to make way for Carbone. Briscoe and Collins are still unfit. Dutch midfielder linusfull returns with defender Walker (one-match ban). Striker Gallacher makes a welcome return for Blackburn. Pearce is fit again, but fellow defender Le Saux is not yet ready for inclusion.

Liverpool

v Everton

Ruddock may be recalled for Liverpool at the expense of Scales

Last season: 1-2. Last fr WWW.; Everton LDWW

record run of six successive wins. Manager Kinnear may bring in left-back Kimble and move England Under-21 captain Thatcher to centre-back. Southampton [

TEAM SHEET

back in their starting line-up.

v Sunderland Last five League matches:

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

and you have to be very care-

Royle has two great assets in his quest. One is an apparent-ly supportive board, the other

is his own history. We met at Evertoo's Bellefield training

ground in an office which had

barely changed since Royle first

entered it more than 30 years

rather than stands in front of -

Catterick's unusual desk, which

has a football pitch painted on it. One new addition is pinned

to the noticeboard, an old and

unframed black-and-white pho-

tograph of Royle heading an

Wimbledon.

sisted the temptation to recall him-

sisted the temphation to recall him-self. Defenders Dubeny (knee) and Phelan (ankle) are not yet ready for a return either. Defender Blackwell is set to start in place of Injured Scot-tish international McAllister (ankle) as Wimbledon attempt to extend a club-

Last five League matches: Chel WDLDW; Wimbledon WWWWW

ago. He now sits behind -

ful in the foreign market."

erseas signings, striker Ostenstad, dfielder Berkowitch and full-back Van Gobbel, could make full debuts for Southampton. Moss stays in goal. Sunderland have left-back Scott (after suspension) and striker Russell

Home manager Robson has a ful-ly-fit squad – that means Scottish defender Whyte could return after missing Monday's 2-2 draw at Sundefland. Armstrong faces a test on his aride injury for fottenham. If he fails, teenager Allen will return a ter a virus. Sinton is out after daniaging knee ligaments against Aston Villa, while Rosenthal (harnstring

Last five League matches: Mid-diesbrough WWLLD; Tottenham

Last season: 0-1

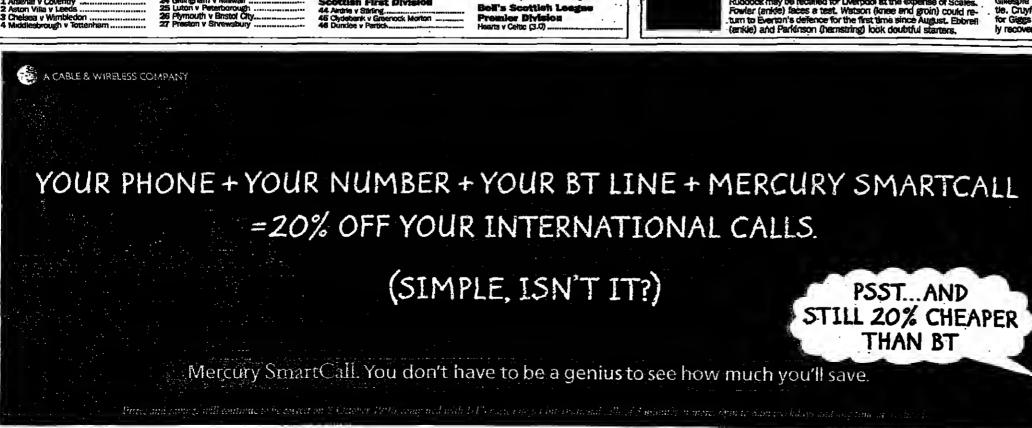
LWITM

West Ham v

Last five League matches: Was Ham DLWLL; Leid

Futre (injury) and Rieper (suspension) return for West Ham. Lazaridis is also fit but could be kept out by Rowland Raducioiu is set to start alongside Porfirio in attack, Leicester have strik-er Claridge back but midfielders Lennon, Parker and tzzet are doubt-

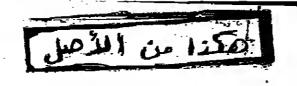
Newcastle Utd v **Manchester Utd** wwww. Manchester Utd www. Gillespie (flu and ricked neck) may yet be fit in time for Newcas-tie. Cruyff is the only fitness worry for Marichester United except for Giges (harristing), who may be recalled if fit. Phil Neville, fully recovered, may be on the bench after his knee operation.



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Nothing but the Premiership for nine-year-olds

Last Saturday was a red-letter day in the Blair household, since it was the first football game in the life of baby Blair. Nothing strange about that, you might think: I'm sure most people can recall their first game. Mine was with my dad in the Lifty 1970s: Portsmouth v Charlton at Fration Park. Pompey hadn't won at home all season, but scraped at 1-0 victory, which I of course atkributed to my being there.

So on Saturday I'm sure that Spurs beat Villa for the first time in six years because haby Blair was there, not because Gareth Southgate wasn't. It was a good omen for a first game (actu-ally Wimbledon v Manchester United on the opening day of the season was the very first, but I didn't know baby Blair was there). You see, baby Blair is not actually due to arrive in this world until March, but such is the footballing rivalry in our household, be (or she) already has - football-wise, at least - a split personality.

That's because I support Spurs, but my other half, who is a Rangers fan, follows West Ham down south and is adamant that baby Blair will be registered as a Junior Hammer hefore he has time to breathe, let alone utter the word White, Hart or Lane. The other problem is that baby Blair will be the fifth generation in a family of dedicated Rangers fans and will doubtiess be given a Super Ally teddy bear as a reminder

of his heritage. It would be a shame if he had to support Rangers from afar and survive on the meagre diet of Scottish football afforded by the English media (at least Gazza's given them a reason for covering the Scottish game, if not always for the right reasons). But in fact baby Blair would be no different to the thousands of kids who grow np idolising a hig club situated hundreds of miles from their home town, and whose idea of supporting involves possessing the latest replica top, subscribing to the club magazine and having a bedroom festooned with posters of the club's stars.

It's amazing how you can wander along any high street and see kids wearing Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle tops, along with the odd England number (al-though never the grey version), while tops representing the local side are as rare as a new signing at Spurs. Ruth and Mark Allen are perfect

mamples of this demographic vagary. School playground codes these days dictate that it's just not hip to be seen wearing a Stockport or Hartlepool top when you can strut around in the latest offerings from the fat cats. So although Ruth and Mark, thanks to their dad, Richard, are lifelong Swindon fans - nine-year-old Mark has even replaced the Thunderbirds stickers above his bed with a collec-tion featuring Steve McMahon, Mark Walters et al - at school, both nail

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

Ruth doesn't dare mention the Robins: "It's too embarrassing, so I talk about Man Utd," she says. Mark, meanwhile, has abandoned Swindon for QPR: "About a quarter of my friends support Man Utd, a fifth of them are QPR. They're always telling me Swindon are rubbish." In other words, if you're a mine-year-old in a playground in

South-west London and you support a Nationwide League team, you are hullied and forced to go in goal.

تعكذا من المذَّصِل

As if that wasn't enough of a problem, the cost of taking kids to foothall is prohibitive to those kids forming a life-long allegiance with their local side, hence the fan from afar phenomenon. If you can't afford Deepdale or Old Trafford, why not support the Reds and be cool at school, seems to be the creed. But that has led to a lack of atmosphere at many of the smaller grounds, a fact hacked up by a survey in next month's FourFourTwo magazine, in which 91 per cent of fans said the atmosphere at grounds wasn't as good as it used to be in the lower divisions.

There does seem to be a tendency to bemoan the lack of a family atmosphere, rather than to adopt a price structure to attract one. But at least some clubs are trying. Leyton Orient, for example, are charg-ing under-16s just £10 for a season

ticket (that's 43p per match), while at Wycombe under-16s pay just £35. And bobble hats off to Bristol City, who have given every adult buy-ing a season ticket in the family stand at Ashton Gate a free season ticket for fans aged 12 and under.

But none of these clubs can hope to compete on the marketing front with clubs such as United (who have enough junior members - 34,156 to fill over half of Old Trafford) and Spurs. Their club shops stock everything from beakers to bibs and jumpsuits in the hope of catching them young (well, you wouldn't expect Alan Sugar to pass up a marketing opportunity, would you?)
The saving grace for the smaller

clubs is a committed parent with enough money and sense to pass on good - and loyal - habits. Of course, what I haven't considered is that baby Blair could grow up hating football - although it's unlikely in a family where even the cat is called

enough to support local team OPR (at least he'd be supporting Rangers in some shape and form). So it's likehy that baby Blair will end up being taken regularly to Upton Park - at least West Ham is one of the few Premiership clubs with a family atmosphere which reflects their sympathetic price structure - and so will be committed to a lifetime forever blowing hubbles.

Sometimes, however, not even dad has the pulling power to sway young loyalties. I recall one eight year-old whose dad was a committed Gooner, but whose best pal supported Spurs. Since best pal was, at that time, on a pedestal, the boy ended up wearing blue and white instead of red and white. Dad wasn't best pleased, because dad was Liam Brady.

Olivia Blair is assistant editor of FourFourTwo magazine

Toon Army finds a new general

avid Batty's head has been seen of late buried m a weighty tome described on the dust jacket as "a modern history of hideous crimes". The Newcastle United midfielder has a fascination for real-life horror. Perhaps it is . just as well.

o find it

larg to

Each time he turned on his heels in Budapest on Tuesday night, he could see football's equivalent of a horror show unfolding before his eyes. Had it not been for Batty's calming influ-ence. Newcastle's Uefa Cup challenge would probably have perished with their death-wish defending against Ferencyaros.

It was not simply that he steadied a sinking ship with his combative play in Newcastle's midfield anchor role. Batty's typecast Yorkshire terrier image has never done his talent true justice. He showed his creative r. Three in Budapest by setting up > 1.31 Shearer for his impressive equaliser.

Batty's form must surely be a source of some reassurance for Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, as he ponders the case against a defence that was not so much at sixes and sevens as ones, threes, fives, 12s and 19s in that 3-2 defeat against the Hungarian champions. Indeed, if Shearer's is the first name the cam-sheet for tomorrow's visit of Manchester United, the defending champions, to St James' Park, Batty's will be a close scc-

Batty, in Keegan's estima-tion, 'has been nothing short of sensational" since his transfer from Blackburn in February. Yet if the Newcastle manager had been swayed by the Toon Army, he would not have allowed the Yorkshireman close enough to St. James' Park to put pen to paper. "I got shoals of mail saying

that I shouldn't sign him behe wasn't good enough and we didn't need him," Kee-Tomorrow afternoon, you

Mam t

(exter

Simon Turnbull on David Batty: whose defensive qualities will be much needed by

Newcastle tomorrow would not find one local heading up the hill to Newcastle's ground who would confess to being anything other than batty about Batty - unless, of course, you came across the Geordie Judases, as they have come to be known, in the Northumberland branch of the Manchester United supporters' club.

'I got mail saying I shouldn't sign him because he wasn't good enough and we didn't need him'

Batty made his debut in the corresponding fixture last season and while it was Eric Cantona, a fellow graduate from Leeds' champion class of 1992, who struck the decisive blow that March night, the Newcastle new boy won over the doubters.

In doing so, he won the man of the match award and has had countless more statuettes for company on the after-match drive back to the Wetherby home be shares with his wife, Mandy, and their toddler twins, George and Jack. "He is the best signing Kevin Keegan's made," Barry Venison, one of Batty's predecessors in Newcastle's defensive midfield stot, said on a return visit to Tyneside this week. Cer-

tainly, the £3.5m acquisition of Batty must undoubtedly rank as one of the Newcastle manager's

He cost £500,000 less than Warren Barton and less than half the price of Faustino Asprilla. At 27, he is at the peak of his playing powers and, hav-ing been picked in Glenn Hod-dle's squad for the Moldova game, is back in the England picture again.

Yet in the 51 weeks he spent out of action from April 1994 to April 1995, Batty feared his career would be ended by a split bone in the side of his right ankle that screws failed to mend. It was only the last resort of removing the bone, after six months in plaster, that solved a seemingly incurable problem.

That was the worst period of my life," Batty said. "I really thought my playing days might be at an end." Such a close shave perhaps

explains why Batty has been playing with renewed relish since he left Blackburn, where his Moscow tiff with Graeme Le Saux and Ray Harford's signing of Lars Bohinen threatened to stifle the promising comeback he made at the end of Rovers' 1994/95 championship-winning.

It was Kenny Dalglish, Keegan's successor in the Liverpool No 7 shirt, who took Batty to Ewood Park in 1993. Dalglish never forgot the 18-year-old who played alongside him in an Elland Road testimonial match for John Charles and Bobby

But the manager who moulded Batty, and who he cites as the greatest influence on his career, was the man who caused Keegan to lose his shirt, as well as his rag, in the famously un-charitable 1974 Charity Shield match at Wembley. "I knew he was a diamond the first time I saw him play for Leeds City Boys," Billy Bremner said.

Come tomorrow, Keegan will doubtless be grateful for his polished gem as he plots how to get his hands on the crowning jewel in the Old Trafford



David Batty has proved the Newcastle doubters wrong

Photograph: Empics

Swiss praise for Liverpool tactics

Roy Evans resumes his domestic duties iomorrow with a Metseyside derby, secure in the knowledge that Liverpool have regained their high standing in

A place in the quarter-finals of the Cup-Winners' Cup in March oow looks likely following their 2-1 victory against Sion. The result in this secondmund first-leg game was just the boost Evans and his players needed hefore tomorrow's game with Everton at Anfield. The way they went about securing that victory on Thursday night was loudly applauded in Switzerland, while Evans himself called his team's approach 'professional"

Barnes got the goals after Christophe Bonvin had given Sion a surprise early lead. Alberto Bigon, the Sion coach, said Liverpool deserved their victory and that his club

casters also praised Evans for his forward-thinking tactics. Patrik Herr of Sport Zurich said: When Liverpool equalised, many people thought they

Robbie Fowler and John

now seem resigned to going out of the competition.

Swiss journalists and broad-

would settle for a draw. But it ers have faced a player like that was obviously not in their thinking and that startled a lot of peo-

"They are not used to seeing a visiting side play such an of-fensive game and it was very thrilling to watch. It made for a very special game and I know the people of Sion were bonoured to see such a perfor-

"John Barnes never gave the ball away, but most of the papers here say Steve McManaman was the outstanding player. "He has marvellous skill and I don't think the Sion defendbefore, one who runs straight at

Despite praising his team, Evans was unhappy at the way his team defended for long spells and has the option of recalling Neil Ruddock against

John Scales, who was con-tinually pulled out of position in Switzerland, could find his place under threat. Evans will also wait to assess the fitness of Fowler, who managed to play for 68 minutes after missing three matches because of an an-

Dave Watson could return to the Everton defence for the first time since the opening day of the season. He came through an A team game this week behind closed doors without any problems after suffering a combination of knee and groin injuries.

Everton have come in for much criticism since their opening-day victory over Newcastle and they aim to use that to their advantage. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "Nothing unites a team more than criti-cism of this kind. We are not going to Anfield just to make up

McGoldrick moves to Maine Road

Nationwide round-up

Eddie McGoldrick takes his place in Manchester City's otherwise unchanged squad for their home game against Nor-wich after Steve Coppell paid Arsenal £300,000 yesterday to make his loan move permanent.

In-form Norwich City, who, in second, are 17 places above their hosts, welcome back Andy Johnson, who missed Wednesday's 2-0 defeat of Oldham. That was the Canaries' third successive victory, but they have won only once in their last 20 visits to Maine Road.

For their visit to Chariton, the leaders Bolton retain the side that beat Tranmere, but the home side are hoping that Anthony Barness recovers from an ankle injury. Ricky Otto will be making his final appearance on loan from Birmingham.

There is no change either for Crystal Palace as they welcome Swindon to Selhurst Park. Their captain, Ray Houghton, is still out with a calf strain and George Ndah is absent with a thigh injury.

Swindon's midfielder Scott Leitch is expected to recover from his groin strain, which has restricted his training as the Robins seek their first win at Selhurst Park since the 1955/56

Bradford City hope to receive clearance to play the Portuguese midfielder Humberto, who has joined his compatriot Sergio Pinto at Valley Parade, against Barnsley, who have Clint Marcelle back in contention after a month out with a calf injury.

St Mirren By Colin Campbell

You can see them every Saturday in the streets of Paisley. especially around popular pubs: single-decker buses loaded with either blue, red and white clad Rangers diehards or green and white be-The buses truodle off,

weighed down with those who have made the easy decision to support one or other of the Glasgow giants, both of which are hased within 10 miles of Paisley town centre. Consequently, St Mirren, the local senior team for

around 200,000 people, find themselves bereft of the support that would relieve the club's current financial difficulties. Despite its geographical proximity, it is not only the Paisley Saints who are frustrated by this weekly exodus of cash-paying supporters. Every town in Scotland contributes

Parkhead, each of which now attract over 50,000. St Mirren, however, seem to be suffering more than most and the enormity of the overdraft means that a swift return to the richer pickings at the big boys' table is becoming in-

creasingly less likely. The current cash crisis can he traced back to their Scottish Cup triumph in 1987. On the foundation of that success, the time was right to assemhle a team capable of sustaining a long-term challenge in the top half of the Premier Division. The manager, Tony Fitzpatrick, was allocated a hudget - frankly heyond their means - to recruit the required players. Of course. they flopped, performances deteriorated and relegation followed.

Ironically, Fitzpatrick's popularity with the fans remained intact throughout. Yes, the signings were hopeless but, as they were being made, with the possible exception of a mercenary Steve Archibald, the fans were rubbing their hands and saying: "Great, these are the boys for us!"

The Love Street manager's office has had various recent occupants, but now Tony Fitznatrick, with his cothosiasm still on the boil, has landed back in sweeter it is going to be when the hot seat. The fans smiled

and nodded when he publicly reminisced about a game in Aberdeen towards the end of his first spell in charge. The rampani Dons had just whipped us 5-0 and, as he made the longish walk from the Pittodrie dug-out along the track to the tunnel. he was not even all that surprised to find that a sizeable contingent of the Saints fans had stayed to cheer and chant his name. Like the playing kit. everything is black or white with the Paisky support; you're either a hero or a villain.

Our expectations are slightdifferent now in the austere 90s. The hoped-for swift bounce back to the top flight never materialised and the current shoe-string hudget is restricting our short-term amhitions. It would be nice to enjoy the novelty of a season in which we do not have to worry about further demotion.

Long term? It comes and goes in cycles for teams like St Mirren. They had 13 consecutive seasons in the Premier and qualified for Europe four times in the 80s. They are in the realms of under-achievement at the moment, but the cycle dictates an inevitable rise again at some point.

Of course, it would be better if the Old Firm supporting hordes backed the local team instead. But that is a fantasy we can forget. Professiona sport is, by definition, a husiness and, like any other business, a professional football club, ultimately, is selling a product to a customer.

The product sold by Rangers and Celtic is, at a fundamental level, different from that sold by Scottish provincial clubs. The Glasgow giants are selling an association with success, their customers are not going to tolerate a side incapable of challenging for - and winning - domestic silverware on an ongoing season to scason basis.

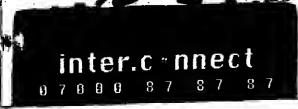
The others are selling the cosy glow of satisfaction that goes with supporting the lo-cal mob. And although things might be rotten just now, if we stick with it long enough, there is a glory day somewhere in the future - and the longer we have to wait, the

:es-1 to

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Turin test for Internazionale

Internazionale, the new Italian league leaders, face their first serious test of the season when they travel to Turin to face the European champions, Juventus tomorrow night.

Five games into the new sea-son, Interlead by just one point from a quartet of second placed sides - Parma, Roma, Bologna, and Juventus.

Inter might be top but they have not impressed in picking up nine of their 10 points against Serie A also rans, Udinese, Perugia, Atalanta and Piacenza. In a midweek Ucfa Cup home tie, inter again struggled to beat

the modest Austrian side Casi-

no Graz 1-0, thanks to an 81st-

minute goal from the French defender Jocelyn Angloma. The Inter defender Salvatore Fresi argues that, media criticism notwithstanding, being on top of the league hrings a psy-chological advantage. "The difference between this season

and last is tangible, opponents Ivan Zamorano, as a partner for look on us with more respect. Marco Branca. Let's hope it goes well in Turin. The longer we remain on top. the more respect we'll earn, the more opponents will fear us,"

Recent tradition is against Inter since their last league win against Juventus came in the 1992/93 season when they pulled off a 3-1 and 2-0 home and away double. Tomorrow Inter will also be

without their influential English midfielder Paul Ince, who is suspended, following his sending off against Piacenza last Satur-Inter's English coach, Roy Hodgson, will replace ince with

Javier Zaneui, the Frenchman Youri Djorkaeff and the Dutchman, Aron Winter. In attack, Maurizio Ganz may be preferred to the Chilean,

the Swiss midfielder Ciriaco

Sforza, alongside the Argentine

Juventus have also had a

week of mixed fortunes which saw them held to a 1-1 draw by the Austrian side, RapidVienna. in the Champions' League on Wednesday, five days after a 2-1 league defeat by Vicenza.

The goalkeeper Angelo Pcruzzi and the French midfielder Zinedine Zidane, who both missed the Rapid encounter, are expected to return. The Croat, Alen Boksic, and

Michele Padovano will form the attack, while Zidane regains his place alongside his compatriot Didier Deschamps and Angelo Di Livio, probably at the expense of the Serb_Vladimir

Juventus's stylish striker Alessandro Del Piero, who has been out of action since sustaining an ankle injury last month, is expected to come on as a second-half substitute.

PLAYER TRANSFERS FROM 23 OCTOBER



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THE INDEPENDENT SINDEPENDENT

Els extends unbeaten record in World Match Play after remarkable comeback



Players vote for strike over TV money

ALAN NIXON AND PHIL SHAW

England's footballers have yoted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action and are likely to withdraw their labour for the first time in their history a fortnight today.

The strike action will affect the three divisions below the Premiership, and is the result of a protracted battle between the Football League - which administers the three divisions of the Nationwide League - and the players' union over the distribution of television money.

Gordoo Taylor, the chief executive of the Professiooal Footballers' Association, had called on his members to endorse strike actioo in a ballot carried out in the last month. He will today announce 92 per cent backing for a strike.

When Taylor announces his

plans he will almost certainly instruct his members in the First, Second and Third Divisions not to play in any game at which TV cameras are present, either for live coverage or recorded highlights, starting on Saturday 2 November. With all First Division games, and many in the Second and Third, now having cameras present to provide Sky Sports with its extensive coverage, the instruction is likely to

Taylor is prepared to persevere with the strike despite threats from the Football League that it could have longterm consequences. The action will not affect Premiership

affect the majority of matches in the three divisions.

At issue is the portion of the televisioo money which has traditionally been paid to the PFA and used to pay for pensions and other benefits. Last minute talks have been lined up

between the two parties. Chris on which England's profes-Hull, the rootball League

spokesman, said last night: We hope for developments over the weekend. We have always stressed that we want to continue our dialogue. Hopefully the PFA will come round The only previous occasion could be their last in the

Rangers' manager, Walter Smith, will check oo Paul Gas-

coigne's mental condition after

his trying week before caming

his team to face Aberdeen in the

Scottish Premier Division today.

controversial England midfield-

er, who was sent off in the

Champions' League game

Smith wants to be sure that the

sionals came close to withdrawing their labour in the sought the lifting of the Football League's maximum wage of £20 per week.

Port Vale's First Division fix-

against Ajax and is also facing al-legations that he hit his wife, is

in the right state of mind to help

Rangers' pursuit of a morale-

boosting League victory. Before

heading off for the defeat in Am-

the League at Hibernian.
"I've had a word with him

and he seems all right just now," said Smith, after Gas-

coigne had trained with the rest

of the squad at Ibrox yesterday.

sterdam, Rangers were beaten in

Bell, the car dealer who owns 80 per cent of Vale's shares, put the Potteries club and all their players up for sale following protests against him after

"I will leave the decision until

nearer the game. Your first

priority is to field a team you

think is going to win the game."

goes beyood the club into the international arena. The Eng-

land coach, Gleon Hoddle, will

also want to be sure that the

Geordie can keep himself in the

right frame of mind for World

Cup qualifying matches. Smith's problems do not in-

Concern about Gascoigne

Football League, the club's moment there is no one coming Police said they could not rule chairman, Bill Bell, warned forward to buy the club. If no. seven days, I would think Port Vale will oot remain as a foot-

owned by Bell was set alight by

and McCoist.

bled their gates during Bell's decade at the helm.

Brighton's future is now ooking even more uncertain af-Rangers check Gascoigne's mental state ter Portsmouth announced yesterday they will not allow the Seagulls to share their ground next season. Fratton Park has keeper, Andy Goram, is ruled out of the Aberdeen match, as been the Third Division club's first choice for a temporary

home ever since the Goldstooe are McCall, Durie, Anderseo ground was sold last year. Terry Gibson has left Barnet, Smith wants to avoid a repetition of what happened in Auonly five days after being made first-team coach by the Third Division club, who this week apgust 1994, the last time Rangers lost three times in succession. pointed Alan Mullery as di-AEK Afhens knocked them rector of football. out of Europe, Celtic beat them at Ibrox, and Falkirk put them

out a unk between the fire and

the chairman's decision to sell

Vale are understood to have debts of £800,000, but have

risen from the former Fourth

Division and more than dou-

the chub.

Terry Bullivant, who became last Saturday's visit to Cardiff. Gibson, like Mullery and Clemence a former Tottenham player, took charge for that game, which Barnet won 2-1. He resigned after meeting the Barnet chairman, Tony Kleandrous, to discuss his role under Mullery, Tottenham could be signing

the 31-year-old Austrian in-ternational defender Anton Pfeffer. Although they have him under contract until 1998, Austria Vienna are prepared to let him go, at an undisclosed fee, if he can agree the move.

All perimeter fences a World Cup venues are to be pulled down in response to the stadium trag Guatemala.

"Fences are for animals and prisoners - not football fans, Sepp Blatter, the geogral secretary of Fifa, football's world governing body, said yesterday. "I believe that all the fences for the World Cup in France should be taken down.

Fifa have asked that a minute's silence be observed at all football matches this week-

Keegan's fate bound up with United

You could forgive Kevin Keegan for feeling that the fate of his Newcastle managership is in-James' Park, the scene of the extricably linked with Man-

denied the championship by a ed for the first half. When the late charge by Alex Ferguson's team and, now that they have regained the lead in the Premiership for the first time since March, who do they meet?

Like Holmes and Moriarty. Keegan and Ferguson have heen pitting their wits since Newcastle were promoted in 1993 and it is the Manehester United manager who usually comes out on top.

Six league matehes, no wins;

doubtedly clothed in a red shirt. pivotal - and snapshot - moment of last season. The home team, Last season, his team were . their attack rampant, dominatgoal did not come, they faded quietly away. The winner was

snatched by Eric Cantona. The faces in the crowd that cold March night said everything as, for the first time, it dawned on Tyneside that Keegan's team might not win the championship. Tears were shed and within three weeks the leadership of the Premiership was lost. A grudge has been nurtured ever since.

Guy Hodgson previews the weekend's Premiership action, which culminates tomorrow with more than pride at stake

more important than beating Coventry or West Ham." Oh yes? Try telling that to the Newcastle supporters, or Keegan, for that matter, who had his players training behind closed doors yesterday in preparation.

Newcastle need to win, if only for the self-belief it would stoke on Tyneside, while the visitors are desperate not to lose and fall five points behind a team they if Newcostle's players and sup-porters have a bete noire, it is un-game is one we want to win,"

The Manchester United regard as one of their most dan-gerous rivals. "We can't afford gerous rivals. "We can't afford

Peter Beardsley said this week, to let a gap develop." Ferguson "bur I wouldn't say that it is said yesterday, echoing the words of last week before his side paid Liverpool back with a

1-0 win. Then Ferguson bad a Champions' League tie on the agenda immediately afterwards. It was with a sense of relief he could concentrate on Newcastle in isolation. "I don't have to worry about injuries," he said. That news will go down like a punctured balloon in Swindon, who travel to Old Trafford on Wednesday for a

a hint yesterday he might turn up at St James' Park in playing gear. He is travelling to Newcastle ostensibly because Ferguson wants to gauge the Republic of Ireland midfield player's fitness, but if the imession is favourable it is going to take steely resistance to temptation on the manager's part not to include him, at least

Just as Newcastle have floundered against Manchester United, Liverpool have had a fruitless time against Everton since Joe Royle was appointed manager at Goodison Park. They meet at Anfield an hour before the kick-off at St James' Park, with the bookmakers making the home team favourites, if only because of a law of averages.

on the hench.

In Merseyside derbies of recent vintage, Everton have, shall we say, been more robust than their neighbours to an extent that the Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, made some disparaging comments about the Goodison club being called the school of science after one defeat. Whether this will be the case tomorrow is debatable, however, as two of Royle's

Roy Keane is pencilled in for snappers in midfield, John that one, although there was just Ebbrell and Joe Parkinson, are

out of the Coca-Cola Cup.

extremely doubtful. This is unlikely to make Royle, who has been upset at recent reviews, any happier. "To be honest, everyone feels a bit aggrieved at some of the flak flying around," he said yesterday. "After all, we've taken seven points from our last nine and are lying only four points off a European place.'

A win over the old enemy and all criticism will be forgotten. However, that is unlikely to be the case if Wimhledon lead the Premiership come tonight. The end of the world was all but predicted when the Dons won the FA Cup but, if results go in their favour today, the Crazy Gang will be perched on top of the league, albeit for 24

For that to happen will require Arsenal losing at home to Coveotry and Wimbledon winning away at Chelsea, hut after a club record six successive victories, the feeling around Selhurst Park is that anything is possible. "All the lads are buzzing," Brian McAllister, the Dons' defender, said, as indeed will be the headline writers. But, somehow, foothall will

prohably survive... RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF THE UNITEDS



9/10 DEFENCE VALUE DESERVE SPACE

Keylin Keegain steems for have a policy. Improved their reiting in a wordt because of their performances against Liverpool which makes this the weak lank liderate; of their performances against Liverpool which makes this the weak lank liderate; and Fenerateines, May, the plages policy and to be dropped, is in magnitude of their bit when it comes to track profiled up the improve of the englishing back, their case fells apart when they game. Phil Neille's return brings an entities they did against Ferenceans. Dimessingent of inches at full-back.

7/10 MIDHELD

Wondarful going forwerd, not so good: Silt missing Keeine and you wonder how in release geer. Bathy's purchase was much longer Beddham darfusen with supposed to son out the lover to you. Inglish and and sall produce going for his proper school of marking but there want. On the plue side, But is getting is limit evidence of a change in care better and better while Chyfrist last, realism, Sill, Beadsieg, Ghola and Gille. Looks to trave had conventing passed side do wonderful things with a bell last close to the plue sometime. What they need is due a good game against United. now is a fit, in-form Giggs. 10/10 FORWARDS

They peid a small fortune to get a commonding leader of the line and they get much for first goals but with the meta-mending leader of the line and they get much for first goals but with the meta-men the pensity area. But enough of this backness for the second goal fertiliand. Shelter is doing a proty egainst fenerhance was straight from the dark positions and they will score will set happine for a good night in Tupley goals. You cannot esk for more.

Stray Hodgson.

Clemence's pre-seasoo depar-ture, resigned 24 hours before 80 people who died in the dis-aster. At least 147 were also in-

caretaker-manager after Ray end in memory of the more than 80 people who died in the disjured when fans tumbled down seats and stairs and were trapped by fencing at a World Cup qualifying match between Guatemala and Costa Rica on Wednesday.

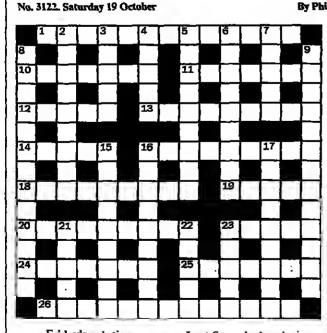
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

ACROSS

It's a big let-down for an aviator (9, 4)

Where one lives shows a

little in choice of headgear 3 Officer in flimsy refuge (7)
Artist appointed to frame
King and Queen (5)

tomb (9) Examine church for climb-

ing plant (5) A gala menu served up for ince in Madrid (9) Illumination in street re-

veals mostly unconvincing situation (9) 19 The way animal recoils, attacked by wasp (5)
20 Tear cover badly and go

spare! (9) Wine? There's zero in bar Religious leader stands in middle of road, rationally

predicting the conse-quences (1, 6) One mother leaving nothing out, taking pictures (7)

DOWN

Coca-Cola Cup tie.

Steal back, hiding amid mature flourishing trees

Performer's agent blowing top (5) Dislikes a hint of eccen-

tricity in headgear (5)
The first to take a spin in
cricket match – plan's to
have one caught (4, 5) Tommy Atkins on Civvy Street? (3, 6) Score the same as a strik-

somehow had yet to ensuare cruel leader (3,5,2,3)

Farm produce for nothing
the number of products
is encouraging (4,5.4)
Shortened term at Oxford is restricting the Universi-ty there - that's laughable

Quantity of Russian jets

flying to another country? Due to be freed, prisoner

in to be freed, prisoner ignores page of teaching material (9)

Mistake cropping up in answer or reply (5)

One's caught by the force? (5)

Last Saturday's some APPARIATUS SALVIE LUE HAA ALIX

LILLAC ILLEGIBLE

OVER RIJERM
TRESPASSES CARP

STRESPASSES CARP

FRITT N RELL

PRIMARY THERESA

ASS CONTROL

TRESPASSES TO THERESA

ASS CONTROL

TRESPASSES TO THERESA

TRESPASSES TO THERESA

TRESPASSES TO THERESA

The first five correct solutions to this week's pazzle opened nent Thursday and Survey of the Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Camary Wharf, London E145BL Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: D L Smith, Edinburghe Peter Browning, Bristot, Arthur Hall, Goring-by-Sen; A Sugden, Bingley; A Laylon, Stretton.

を受ける。 ・ できたい。 ・

CLUE () MELT EVEN () WISE MINT () ONTO

HAND () FLEE FIST () MAZE COSY () CHIN

On each line place a letter which, when substituted for the last letter of the word to the left and the first letter of the word to the right, will 1点:3 F\$ 图形 give two other words. The six letters used will give another

word reading downwards. What is it? Set the enswer right 医神经性 "报告证证 and we will send you

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